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The Maryland Yellowthroat

November 2024

Jim Ivett took this remarkable photo of Peregrine Falcons at Point of Rocks, Maryland on June 14th, 2023. Read Marcia Watson's equally remarkable update of how this splendid bird is doing in our state these days, beginning on Page 17

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

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Editor's Note

A couple of weeks ago, while walking to the bank along Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring, I heard a repeated yapping from the top of a tall building at the corner with Colesville Road. The source turned out to be a Peregrine Falcon, a bird I had seen several times over the years downtown, and I started to wonder if anyone knew whether this bird might have an aerie nearby. In fact, come to think of it, who was monitoring peregrine populations in the state; how were the birds faring; and how could people see the birds without disturbing them? Who might know how to find this information?

To find out, I naturally contacted Marcia Watson, and we came up with the idea for an article that would review the bird's current status in Maryland. At that point, Marcia's husband, Gene Scapulla, reminded us that Maryland Birdlife, of which Gene is the editor, published such a review written by Glenn Therres, Craig Koppie, and Matt Olear in the Fall, 2021 issue (Volume 70, Number 2), which you can find on the MOS website. So Marcia decided to come up with a photographic essay that would also update how the birds are doing these days, based upon Breeding Bird Atlas data and eBird. She made a heroic effort to find photos of peregrine Maryland nesting sites in the Macaulay Library at Cornell University and organized them according to nest site categories. The result is the extraordinary article that you can find on page 17. If you want to see a Peregrine Falcon, and who doesn't, her masterpiece is the best guide you can find.

Also featured in this issue is a wonderfully informative account of the effort being put forth by the Marshes for Tomorrow initiative, led by Audubon Mid-Atlantic, to preserve the marshes, and the birds living in them, at MOS's very own Irish Grove Sanctuary. Phil Davis gives us this year's MD/DC Records Committee 2024 decisions, and also, with David Bridge, contributes a Chandler Robbins Christmas Bird Count commentary, dating from 1953 (!) that Phil and his team unearthed while sorting Chandler's historic papers. Just in time for this year's CBC. Robin Todd gives us good news about Hart-Miller Island and is joined on the conservation front by Valerie Staats informing us about the RENEW act that is slated to appear before the Maryland legislature in 2025. Toni and Bruce Evans share highlights of their expedition to Australia, joined, as always, by inspiring stories in Chapter Chatter of MOS members heading afield, edited of course by Jean Wheeler.

Speaking of Jean, she has finally, after 14 years, decided to retire as Chapter Chatter editor, and we will certainly miss the diligence and joy she always brought to the job. She will be coming through as always until the May, 2025, issue, so we are advertising her position in this issue. Gene Scarpulla is also looking for someone to replace him as the editor of Maryland Birdlife, after 11 years of yeoman service. And, we also include announcements by Anna Urciolo, our MOS Scholarship Chair, and Joy Aso, our MOS Awards Committee Chair.

Deepest thanks to all of them and to our Yellowthroat authors and contributors for all they are doing to help make MOS the growing, active, and vibrant organization that it is.

President's Corner

Dear MOS member,

Do you wonder what are the tasks of an MOS Club or State Officer, Vice-President, or President? If you read your club's newsletters or this column in each *Yellowthroat*, you must know that writing is one of our regular tasks. What about? My main concern is to get MOS to keep growing, and since we are a volunteer organization, that means to keep recruiting more volunteers. This year, November is MOS Convention time, and what I wonder about is how/ if we shall have a Convention in 2025, since our current chair, Meg Harris, is stepping down after organizing six conventions! I have mentioned this before and insisted on the urgent need for a new chair, but to no avail so far. I have then asked Meg herself what led her to chair her first convention and to continue. Meg answered:

"My husband and I started attending conventions in 2013 shortly after joining MOS. I started helping with registration check-in after a couple of years, then I moved to field trips sign-ups. At the 2018 convention, I thought to myself, I could run this. I am a former software project manager, so I already had the skills to run an event like the convention. I made the offer to then MOS President Barbara Johnson, who took me up on it, and I chaired the 2019 convention. I feel that as part of an organization like MOS, I should take an active role in some way."

I want to underline this last sentence. When our previous MOS President, Bonnie Borsa, resigned for health reasons last year, to our deep regret, I suddenly became president and needed a new vice-president. I sent a message to the whole MOS membership. Within 24 hours, Steve Sheffield, our current Vice-President, offered to assume that office. His explanation:

"I like MOS, I participate in all the conventions and would like to help as I can."

Steve has been an active vice-president and is working hard on finding a way to keep our Conventions going. In another year, he will be the one in need of a vice-president!

Coming back to Meg; why did she keep chairing conventions, and what has been most difficult?

" I get a lot of satisfaction in seeing it all come together. I like working with the folks on the committee; they are good people. But lots of people want to help, but generally they are unwilling to make a bigger commitment."

There is the problem. Right now, we are in a situation, again, where we need members to make a serious commitment in helping MOS. We need a new Convention Chair and a new future MOS vice-president in less than a year. Many of you are already helping: as officer of your chapter or as member or chair of a committee. Please, step up, we need you. Don't think that you will be tied up to your computer for years. Just a week ago, I returned from a terrific trip to the Galápagos!

I won't close this "Corner" without quoting a message sent yesterday by Kurt Schwartz for our Conservation Committee. This message is apolitical even if it asks all of us to vote on November 5. I quote:

" *You should be aware that virtually every one of our bedrock environmental laws is on the ballot. The following laws could be rescinded or severely curtailed, depending on the outcome of the election for President, Senate, and House of Representatives: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The latter gives us voice in environmental policy matters. The preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Teshepuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve, Bristol Bay, and other Alaska lands are also on the ballot. Please do vote!"*

I couldn't agree more. Nature counts on us. Thank you.

Evelyn Ralston,

MOS President

Did you know???????????

Have you visited the Birder's Guide to Maryland and DC.? Thanks to Marcia Watson and her great team, it's an up-to-date compilation of *every* birding spot in DC and Maryland – complete with directions, hours, and tips. Check it out today!

MOS EDI is seeking Volunteers!

(EDI = Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) is looking for new members as we embark on a 3-year strategic plan to help increase the diversity of MOS membership, build partnerships with other organizations, and expand our educational and outreach programs.

We welcome anyone interested in this work. This is an exciting opportunity to really help shape the future of MOS. The only requirement is a willingness to learn and contribute.

Cape May Warbler by Gabriel Foley

For more information contact:
Cheryl Hogue at
MOS.diversity@gmail.com
301-284-8451

Volunteer Recognition

Say Thank You

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) has a committee, the Awards Committee, to help its committees and chapters recognize their members and supporters. They spend a great deal of time and energy working diligently on behalf of the MOS, and it would be nice to honor them.

For more information and questions about the MOS Awards Program, please send an email to Joy Aso at smudgie@comcast.net. Thank you.

Joy Aso

MOS Scholarship Update

Surprise! Looks like I'm back! We are still looking for a new Scholarship Committee Chair for next year.

Information about the Audubon Hog Island camp workshop scholarships in Maine was detailed in the last Yellowthroat issue. MOS has continued to offer scholarships to teachers and naturalists involved with environmental education and conservation.

Flyers with all necessary information and other documents will be sent to science supervisors and principals in all Maryland public county schools and also to all Maryland nature and environmental education centers. MOS will award five scholarships to applicants who work with children and adults and are in those scientific areas. I also appreciate the MOS chapter presidents getting the Flyer information out to their chapter members once the presidents receive the new flyer. This information will also be presented on the MOS website. The EDI committee has contributed $1500 so each recipient will have a stipend of $500 to help with travel expenses.

Three workshops will be available to attend in the summer of 2025.

Joy of Birding – June 8- June 13

Field Ornithology – June 15 - June 20

Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week – August 10 - August 15

.All information about this opportunity is listed on the Flyer with links to the other documents. This will also be put on the MOS website.

https://mdbirds.org/education/

The deadline for application documents to be received by the Scholarship Committee is Wednesday, November 13, 2024. When all documents have arrived, they will be sent out to the Scholarship Committee to review. As noted above, five recipients will be chosen, and then they will complete their registration with the Audubon Hog Island camp.

A list of these 2025 scholarship recipients will be listed in the next Yellowthroat.

Anna Urciolo Scholarship Chair

Maryland Birdlife Editor Search

Gene Scarpulla is planning to retire as Editor of *Maryland Birdlife* after the publication of the two 2024 issues. He will have served as Editor for 11 years, 2014–2024 (21 issues). Gene, Associate Editor Mark Johnson, and the MOS board are searching for a suitable replacement. The Editor needs to be detail-oriented, a bit of a nitpicker, and have good writing/editing skills Does this sound like you? Gene will initially assist and guide the new Editor. If this opportunity might interest you and/or you would like further information, please contact Gene at birdlife@mdbirds.org.

Chapter Chatter Editor Search

After 16 (!) years editing the Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter, our esteemed editor Jean Wheeler has decided to retire after the May 2025 issue, so, we are looking for someone to take on this important task. Jean, of course, will take pains to onboard her successor.

Here, in her own words, is how Jean has felt about this position: " *I have been doing this since, I think 2008, and I have loved it. I love to hear about the travels MOS members are taking, often reliving my own travels to the same places. I have met so many wonderful MOS members and birders through this little column. I think of many as friends whom I have never met in person. I'm thankful to MOS for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful organization."*

If this seems like something you would like to try, please contact Evelyn Ralston at evelyn.ralston@mdbirds.org

CONSERVATION CORNER

PLAN TO DUMP DREDGED MATERIAL ON HART-MILLER ISLAND IS DROPPED

by Robin Todd, Ph.D. MOS Conservation Committee Chair

There was good news recently about the future of Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore's premier spot for birds. First some background.

A new shipping container terminal is to be built on the site of the old Bethlehem Steel works at Sparrows Point, near the Coke Point section. This facility is intended to greatly boost Baltimore's container shipping business. The container port will be able accommodate the new Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs), which require 50-foot depth of water. The company that will build and run the Sparrows Point Container Terminal is a partnership between Tradepoint Atlantic LLC (TPA), Mediterranean Shipping Lines and others. Construction will require the dredging of 4.2 million cubic yards of sediment. In March, TPA announced it planned to dump this huge quantity of dredged material on the North Cell of Hart-Miller Island (HMI).

The dredged material has to be deposited somewhere, and TPA saw HMI's North Cell as an ideal location. The cell has been closed since 2009, but still has capacity for approximately 9,000,000 cubic yards more dredge material. TPA saw it as an ideal site for allowing the facility to be completed in 2026 rather than 2028, as would be the case for multiple dumping sites. TPA offered $40,000,000 in recompense for use of HMI North Cell. The money would have been shared between nearby shore communities and HMI. Local communities could upgrade their public facilities and infrastructure. HMI could be upgraded with a nature center and other amenities. House Bill 343 was passed by Maryland's General Assembly specifically to allow the formation of a committee of local citizens and government officials tasked with working out the details of how the $40,000,000 should be used. The duly constituted Hart-Miller Island Community Benefit Agreement Steering Committee held several public meetings with many representatives of citizens' organizations and received numerous comments from members of the public. Opinions were both for and against the proposed dumping. Detailed discussions on how best to use TPA's donation were held. Baltimore County elected officials were largely in favor, including the County Executive and two councilmen.

TMI's North and South Cells have become the premier Baltimore site for shorebirds and waterfowl. Baltimore Bird Club members, led by Bob Ringler and later by Gene Scarpulla, conducted weekly bird counts at HMI from 1983 to 1991 and from 1996 to 2008 respectively. A total of 310 bird species have been recorded on or around HMI (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YjKTwqNAXbBPMCWCT-oPzeWTuVolSOLI/view). Gene has represented MOS on habitat restoration working groups for both HMI cells and has made many presentations on HMI's ecological value to various state and community entities. After the North Cell was closed to further dredging in 2009, the plan was to allow the dredged material to drain for ca.15 years and then create wildlife habitat. Gene also documented a rich assemblage of solitary bees (86 species) and other pollinators in the South Cell, along the perimeter dike road, and in the state park beach and woodland areas. The North Cell still has capacity for additional material, but the 800 acres remaining that could be filled have become a mecca for shorebirds and waterfowl, as well as other birds. This area comprises low lying marsh and shallow open pools, ideal for these birds. The North Cell's value to shorebirds and waterfowl in particular would be greatly diminished if it were covered with 4.2 million cubic yards of dredged material.

Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) President Joe Corcoran and its Conservation chair, Kathy Lambrow, submitted comments to the Committee and attended all meetings to strongly oppose dumping on HMI without efforts to preserve a portion of the wetlands while the dredge placement was underway. Many residents from adjacent shore communities were also against it, expressing concerns that the material might be toxic as well as wanting to keep HMI as unspoiled as it is now. TPA gave assurances that the material had been tested and found to be nontoxic. The final decision as to whether or not to approve the dumping could only be made by the Maryland Department of the Environment

The debate over where TPA would dump the dredged sediments came to a head at a public meeting held on October 8th. Over 90 people crowded into the North Point Public Library's small meeting room. The above-mentioned BBC members, as well as local citizens, expressed their opposition to the dumping. There were no representatives for TPA at the meeting. When a vote was called for, 86 voted to reject the TPA plan, two voted for it, and one was undecided.

In his October 10 letter, TPA's Aaron Tomarchio informed to Baltimore County's Sameer Sidh, that the company had decided to withdraw its offer of compensation for use of HMI. He cited local opposition as a factor, but thanked the committee members for their work and advised that the dredged material would now be deposited on four separate locations including the open Atlantic Ocean off Virginia's Cape Henry. He noted that this would be less efficient than having a single dumping site. He went on to state however, that TPA had just discovered that dumping at HMI would only have shortened the construction time for the Terminal by only one year, not two (i.e.completion would be 2028, not 2027). County elected officials and some committee members expressed their real disappointment, seeing the vote as leaving $40,000,000 'on the table'.

So, in conclusion, HMI's North cell has been spared obliteration as a premier site for shorebirds, waterfowl and other birds. We can all heave a sigh of relief. But we need to be vigilant for any future such plans for this avian mecca.

Best regards, Robin G. Todd, October 19, 2024

The RENEW Act

By Valerie Staats

I recently attended a public meeting about the RENEW Act and now want to make MOS members and the MOS Board aware of a time-sensitive opportunity to support an important conservation bill. It will be reviewed in the Maryland State Legislature in the 2025 session. It's called the RENEW Act (Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather), and here's a brief summary of it from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network:

As we and our wildlife know, Maryland is experiencing unprecedented heat records, storms, and rising tides. These extreme weather events have price tags, and right now Marylanders, and the birds we admire, are shouldering the burden. Instead, large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies who have spent decades blocking clean energy efforts should help pay for the cost of climate change in Maryland.

To be specific, the RENEW Act would require any company that has emitted more than a billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions between 2000 and 2018 and sells its product in Maryland to collectively pay a one-time fee of $9 billion. This would apply to about 40 companies. In 2022, those companies collectively made over $500 billion in profits.

The RENEW Act was introduced in the U.S. Congress by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), has now been introduced in four states, and has passed in Vermont. The ask is that the largest international fossil fuel companies pay a one-time fee for their historical emissions in Maryland. The RENEW Act would require those companies to fund preparation for, and recovery from, climate disasters.

The proposed uses of the funds in Maryland are: (1) Upgrade infrastructure to prevent flooding and wind storm impacts; (2) Rebuild after disasters; (3) Install air conditioning in public buildings, including schools; and (3) Build community-based resiliency centers to offer shelter and other resources.

What can MOS members do?

1.Go to this Web site and learn about the proposed Act, including its rationale, potential impacts, official language of the bill, a short video, and more: https://ccanactionfund.org/renewact/:

2.E-mail your State legislators encouraging them to pass the RENEW Act; suggested language is available on the above-mentioned Web site (so far, over 50 State Delegates and 16 State Senators have co-sponsored the bill) – there is no deadline, but do reach out before the 2025 Legislative Session starts on January 8, 2025.

3.Encourage MOS to sign on as a supporter (there is no cost to doing this). As of now, supporting organizations include Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Blue Water Baltimore, Maryland Public Health Association, Nature Conservancy Maryland/D.C., Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Sierra Club Maryland, Waterkeepers Chesapeake, and many others.

Thank you for reading and considering this

Valerie Staats, MOS member, Loch Hill, Maryland.

Bird species considered *most vulnerable* to climate events in Maryland:

Summer nesters:

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Red-headed Woodpecker

Blue-headed Vireo

Fish Crow

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Winter Wren

Wood Thrush

Brown Thrasher

Field Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Savannah Sparrow

Henslow's Sparrow

Eastern Towhee

Bobolink

Boat-tailed Grackle

Worm-eating Warbler

Golden-winged Warbler

Cerulean Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Pine Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Canada Warbler

Scarlet Tanager

Year-round:

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Source: Audubon, Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink, "How climate change will affect birds in Maryland," accessed 9/27/2024 at https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees/state/us/md

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of October 2, 2024

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 199 and 200. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL:

https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/

MD Records Accepted:

Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* [MD/2024-012]

Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County.

23-Jan-2024 through 24-Jan-2024. One bird.

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [MD/2024-014]

North Point State Park, Edgemere, Baltimore County.

30-Jan-2024. One male.

American Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus ruber* [MD/2023-085]

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Lexington Park, Saint Mary's County.

30-Sep-2023. Two adults.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [MD/2023-084]

Elk Neck State Park, North East, Cecil County.

25-Sep-2023. One bird.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [MD/2024-032]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

13-Jun-2024 through 16-Jul-2024. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2015-055]

Masonville, Baltimore County.

21-Aug-2015. One bird.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-014]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

13-Nov-2015. Five birds, at least one adult and one juvenile.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-015]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

13-Nov-2015. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2024-006]

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, Anne Arundel County.

13-Nov-2015. One bird.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2017-007]

Lock Raven Reservoir, Baltimore, Baltimore County.

13-Nov-2015. Two birds; one adult and possibly one subadult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2017-006]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

13-Nov-2015. Three adults and one immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-017]

Public Landing, Worcester County.

13-Nov-2015. Two birds.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-016]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

13-Nov-2015. Several flocks; up to 30 birds, total.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-018]

Homer Gudelsky Park, Ocean City, Worcester County.

14-Nov-2015. Fourteen birds.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2017-010]

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County.

14-Nov-2015 through 16-Nov-2015. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-019]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

15-Nov-2015. One bird.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2017-009]

Chestertown Wastewater Treatment Plant, Chestertown, Kent County.

15-Nov-2015. Two first-winter birds.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2024-021]

Violettes Lock, Seneca, Montgomery County.

22-Nov-2015. One bird.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2024-004]

Sycamore Landing, Poolesville, Montgomery County.

24-Nov-2015 through 26-Nov-2015. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2024-005]

Hurlock WWTP, Hurlock, Dorchester County.

07-Dec-2015 through 12-Dec-2015. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2024-007]

Great Oak Pond, Chestertown, Kent County.

26-Dec-2015. One first-cycle.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2018-033]

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (also Jackson Landing, PG), Lothian, Anne Arundel County.

11-Sep-2017. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2018-068]

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County.

03-Nov-2018. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2018-069]

Chesapeake Beach Marina, Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County.

03-Nov-2018 through 04-Nov-2018. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2018-067]

Violettes Lock, Seneca, Montgomery County.

03-Nov-2018. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2019-094]

Conowingo Dam, Conowingo, Cecil County.

04-Nov-2019 through 18-Nov-2019. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2019-095]

Violettes Lock, Seneca, Montgomery County.

06-Nov-2019. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2020-051]

Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester County.

03-Aug-2020. One bird, first summer plumage.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-044]

Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial Park, Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County.

21-May-2021. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-119]

Elk Neck State Park, North East, Cecil County.

17-Oct-2021. One subadult/adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-124]

Queenstown, Queen Anne's County.

26-Oct-2021. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2021-130]

Black Hill Regional Park, Boyds, Montgomery County.

15-Nov-2021. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2022-075]

Elk Neck State Park, North East, Cecil County.

03-Oct-2022. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2022-080]

Swan Creek/Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility, Curtis Bay, Anne Arundel County.

15-Oct-2022. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2022-090]

South Point, Berlin, Worcester County.

13-Nov-2022. One bird.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2022-091]

Ocean City, Worcester County.

18-Nov-2022. One immature.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2022-092]

Chesapeake Beach Marina, Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County.

19-Nov-2022. One bird.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2023-069]

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County.

24-Aug-2023 through 15-Oct-2023. One adult.

Laughing/Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus atricilla/pipixcan* [MD/2016-040]

C&O Canal, North Branch, Allegany County.

01-Jun-2014. One adult.

Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [MD/2021-101]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

15-Aug-2021. One dark-morph.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2024-024]

Carrs Mill Road, West Friendship, Howard County.

11-May-2024. One bird.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2024-042]

BWI Airport, Hanover, Anne Arundel County.

25-May-2024. One bird.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2024-031]

Mills Island, Worcester County.

09-Jun-2024. One or two birds.

Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis* [MD/2020-084]

Mullins Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County.

29-Nov-2020. One bird.

Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis* [MD/2020-090]

Riverwalk Park, Frederick, Frederick County.

12-Dec-2020 through 15-Dec-2020. One bird.

Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis* [MD/2020-092]

Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail, Ashland, Baltimore County.

13-Dec-2020 through 15-Dec-2020. One bird.

Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis* [MD/2023-110]

Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory, Kingstown, Queen Anne's County.

08-Oct-2023. One HY bird.

Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens* [MD/2023-086]

National Colonial Farm, Accokeek, Prince George's County.

09-Oct-2023 through 23-May-2024. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2024-002]

Columbia, Howard County.

05-Jan-2024. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2024-037]

Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County.

05-Jan-2024 through 07-Jan-2024. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2024-018]

Essex, Baltimore County.

15-Jan-2024 through 02-Feb-2024. One adult.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2024-017]

Odenton, Anne Arundel County.

29-Feb-2024 through 08-Mar-2024. One bird.

MD Records ID OK/?? Origin:

Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus* [MD/2020-029]

Beauvue Ponds, Beauvue, Saint Mary's County.

22-Apr-2020 through 06-May-2020. One adult.

MD Records ID OK/Exotic Origin:

White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis* [MD/2021-042]

Pennyfield Lock, Potomac, Montgomery County.

15-May-2021 through 20-May-2021. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

California Quail, *Callipepla californica* [MD/2024-015]

Bucknell Drive, Silver Spring, Silver Spring County.

17-Feb-2024. One male.

Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis* [MD/2024-016]

Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County.

12-Jan-2024. One bird.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini* [MD/2024-003]

North Beach marsh, North Beach, Calvert County.

11-Jan-2024. One adult.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2023-109]

Black Walnut Point, Tilghman Island, Talbot County.

03-Dec-2023 through 11-Dec-2023. One bird.

Bermuda Petrel, *Pterodroma cahow* [MD/2023-076]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

20-Aug-2023. Two birds.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2023-093]

Arnold, Anne Arundel County.

01-Nov-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2023-119]

Maxwell Hall Park, Benedict, Charles County.

22-Dec-2023. One bird.

Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans* [MD/2024-013]

Marshy Point Nature Center, Middle River, Baltimore County.

21-Jan-2024. One bird.

Black-billed Magpie, *Pica hudsonia* [MD/2024-040]

Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County.

28-Apr-2024. One bird.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii* [MD/2022-069]

Wooton's Landing Wetlands Park, Harwood, Anne Arundel County.

16-Sep-2022. One bird.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii* [MD/2023-074]

Lake Frank, Derwood, Montgomery County.

02-Sep-2023. One bird.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii* [MD/2024-022]

Little Bennett Regional Park, Clarksburg, Montgomery County.

06-May-2024. One bird.

Townsend's Warbler, *Setophaga townsendi* [MD/2023-113]

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Prince George's County.

29-Oct-2023. One bird.

DC Records Accepted:

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus* [DC/2024-038]

East Potomac Park, SW, Hains Point, Hains Point

20-Apr-2024. One bird.

DC Records Not Accepted:

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [DC/2024-008]

Potomac River, SW, Potomac River, Potomac River

13-Nov-2015. Three birds.

Committee News

Taxonomy Update

The MOS follows the taxonomy of the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) North American Classification and Nomenclature Committee's (NACC) *Checklist of North and Middle American Birds, 7th edition*. Every July the NACC releases its Annual Checklist Supplement. This year, the 65th Supplement was published. The following taxonomic changes (order, splits, lumps, changes to common and scientific names) affect our regional, Maryland and District of Columbia,

checklists:

Passenger Pigeon

This extinct regional species was moved within the checklist. It now follows Rock Pigeon.

Small Ringed Plovers Genus Change

Some of our small ringed-plovers were placed in a new genus. New regional species scientific names are:

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia* ▮ *Anarhynchus wilsonia*)

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus* ▮ *Anarhynchus nivosus*)

Plovers Sequence Change

The new order of our regional plovers is:

Black-bellied Plover

American Golden-Plover

Killdeer

Semipalmated Plover

Piping Plover

Northern Lapwing

Wilson's Plover

Snowy Plover

Least Bittern Genus Change

Least Bittern was absorbed into the same genus as American Bittern:

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis* ▮ *Botaurus exilis*)

Cory's Shearwater Split

The AOS NACC split Scopoli's Shearwater from Cory's Shearwater. The resulting species and order are:

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris borealis*)

Scopoli's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)

The ABA (2024) stated, "Both occur off eastern North America, but Cory's is by far more common. Identification is difficult and based mostly on underwing pattern (e.g., the bases of the primaries below are paler on Scopoli's) and behavioral and structural differences." The ABA also commented on the pronunciation: "Note that Scopoli refers to Italian naturalist Giovanni Antonio Scopoli (SKOH-poh-lee), so the accent falls on the first syllable, and the Os are not pronounced "ah" as in "stop"."

Maryland has previously accepted records of Scopoli's Shearwater as a recognizable and unusual subspecies to Maryland waters. Therefore, this new species is automatically added to the Official List of the Birds of Maryland. The species is common enough on Maryland pelagic trips that it is no longer reviewed by the committee.

Audubon's Shearwaters Split

The AOS NACC split the former Audubon's Shearwaters into several species including species found outside of the region. In this splitting process, the former Audubon's Shearwater's common name was changed to:

Sargasso Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)

Cattle Egret Split

Cattle Egret was split into two species. Birds from the Americas are now known as:

Western Cattle-Egret (*Ardea ibis*)

Night-Herons Common Name Change

The common names of the Night-Herons were changed to remove the hyphens:

Black-crowned Night Heron

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Herons Reordered

The herons and egrets were reordered. The new order of our regional herons is:

Least Bittern

American Bittern

Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron

Reddish Egret

Snowy Egret

Little Egret

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Black-crowned Night Heron

Green Heron

Great Egret

Western Cattle-Egret

Great Blue Heron

Barn Owl Split

The wide-ranging Barn Owl was split into three species. Our North American birds are (with no hyphen):

American Barn Owls (*Tyto furcata*)

Split of House Wren

The (also) wide-ranging House Wren has been split into seven species. Our North American species is now:

Northern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Redpoll Lump

The AOS has (finally!) lumped all redpoll species into one species:

Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*)

This lump assumes Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll from

across North American and Europe, as well as Lesser Redpoll from Europe. In summary, the genetics of the Redpolls do not differentiate species and do not prevent interbreeding. The AOS NACC (Chesser et al. 2024) states, "Geographic variation in phenotype is linked to a large chromosomal inversion that does not prevent reproduction, but instead maintains variation through a combination of environmental and sexual selection pressures." The American Birding Association (ABA) (Retter 2024) adds, "The differences in size and melanin-deposition seem to be clinal and a textbook example of Bergmann's Rule" [organisms in colder climates are typically larger than those in warmer climates]. The impact of this lump is that Maryland loses Hoary Redpoll as a species. The AOS NACC had diverging opinions on and did not reach a consensus position on the status of Redpoll subspecies. Maryland has two reports of the larger "Greenland" or "Greater" [Common] Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*) that was previously reviewable as a regionally unusual Common Redpoll subspecies. We will continue to hold these reports in abeyance until (if?) the Redpoll subspecies taxonomy becomes settled.

Notable Proposals Not Accepted by the AOS

There are several other taxonomic authorities worldwide, with differing taxonomic positions. The AOS NACC, once again, declined to not split the American Green-winged Teal and the Eurasian Common Teal. They also declined to split the Herring Gull complex into two or more species, unlike the prevailing eBird/Clements/IOC approach.

MD/DCRC Web Products

All of the records committee's PDF web products (MD and DC Official Lists, Review Lists, Abridged Databases, etc.) have been updated to conform to the AOS 65th Supplement and can be found on the committee's website:

https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/maryland-bird

-records/

Literature Cited:

R Terry Chesser, Shawn M Billerman, Kevin J Burns, Carla Cicero, Jon L Dunn, Blanca E Hernández-Baños, Rosa Alicia Jiménez, Oscar Johnson, Andrew W Kratter, Nicholas A Mason, Pamela C Rasmussen, and J V Remsen. 2024. Sixty-fifth Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds,*Ornithology*, Volume 141, Issue 3, 1 July 2024, ukae019

,https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithology/ukae019

Retter, Michael L. P., 2024. Checklist Redux 2024. ABA [blog]. July 18, 2024. https://www.aba.org/aos-supplement-2024/. Last accessed September 30, 2024.

Christmas Bird Count Nostalgia – 70 Years Ago

Phil Davis, Secretary, MD/DC Records Committee

David Bridge, Chair, Nest Records Committee

Several volunteers including the authors, and Deanna Dawson, are sorting and organizing over 120 boxes of office archives of the "O.G." of Maryland birding, Chandler S. Robbins, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 98 after a 70+ year career as an ornithologist for the Federal Government at Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge in Laurel, MD.

Chan strove to build and enlarge a statewide cadre of citizen bird watchers/counters to both enjoy birding and to provide resources to enumerate birds for his varied research activities.

Chan's illustrious career was inextricably linked to the MOS and many of his bird counting/surveying innovations were first tested in Maryland.

Christmas Bird Counts were an important part of Chan's focus. Chan participated on his first CBC in Massachusetts in 1934 and organized his first CBC in 1935. Ultimately, he participated in 420 Christmas Bird Counts over his lifetime, more than anyone else, compiling 207 of them on 10 count circles in four states over 82 years.

Even as far back 70 years ago, Chan was interested in rare, unexpected species records. During our sorting of Chan's records, we discovered the informal handout, below, that Chan distributed to CBC counters for the 1953 CBC season. We thought readers might enjoy the nostalgia and Chan's forward-thinking from so long ago. Indeed, his rarities "cheat sheet" still has value and perhaps a review of it may alert you to possibilities that you may not have previously considered on your local CBC. Note that some of Chan's tips involved sound cues, as well as visual. We have added editorial notes dealing with historical and contemporary species names. Species of current interest to the MD/DC Records Committee are marked with as asterisk.

This list of species might have seemed "far-fetched" in 1953, but as sharper-eyed (and eared) Maryland birders reported their observations over the years, many of these species have been recorded and accepted, and some occur regularly, as Chan had predicted.

It Could Be	Instead of	Watch for
Pacific Loon*	[Lesser] Common Loon	Hind neck lighter than back
Eared Grebe	Horned Grebe	Dark cheek
European [Great] Cormorant	Double-crested Cormorant	10 tail feathers
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Long legs
[Greater] White-fronted Goose	other geese	Speckle-belly
Black Brant*	[American] Brant	Black belly
European Wigeon ♀	Baldpate [American Wigeon]	Brown head, gray sides
European [Eurasian] Teal ♂	[American] Green-wing Teal	Horizonal wing mark
Barrow's Goldeneye ♀*	American [Common] Goldeneye	Orange bill
Harlequin Duck ♀	Surf Scoter	3 head spots
[American] Goshawk	Cooper's Hawk	White eye line
Pigeon Hawk [Merlin]	Sparrow Hawk [American Kestrel]	White tail bands
Belted [Great Plains] Piping Plover*	Eastern [Atlantic] Piping Plover	Complete breast band
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Great Black-backed Gull	Herring size or less
[Black-backed] Kittiwake	Ring-billed Gull	Solid wing triangles
Black-headed Gull	Boneparte's Gull	Dark under-wings
Little Gull	Ring-billed Gull	Plain wing-pattern
[Arctic] Three-toed Woodpecker*	Hairy Woodpecker	Black back
Ash-throated Flycatcher*	[Great] Crested Flycatcher	Pale
Black-capped Chickadee	Carolina Chickadee	White on wings
Bewick's Wren*	House Wren	Long, white-tipped tail
House Wren	[Gray] Catbird	Off-color "meow"
Spraque's Pipit*	American Pipit	Piercing squawky call
Bohemian Waxwing*	Cedar Waxwing	Cinnamon under tail
Northern Shrike	Migrant [Loggerhead] Shrike	Vermiculations
Audubon's [Yellow-rumped] Warbler*	Myrtle [Yellow-rumped] Warbler	Yellow throat
Western Meadowlark*	Eastern Meadowlark	Melodious call note
Bullock's Oriole*	Baltimore Oriole	Gray belly
Brewer's Blackbird*	[Brown-headed] Cowbird	Slender bill
Dickcissel	English [House] Sparrow	Rufous on wing
Black-headed Grosbeak*	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Unstreaked brown breast
Spotted Towhee*	Red-eyed [Eastern] Towhee	White back spots
Lark Sparrow	Vesper Sparrow	Round tail
Oregon Junco*	Slate-colored Junco	Head-back contrast
Clay-colored Sparrow	Chippy [Chipping Sparrow]	Brown rump
Harris' Sparrow*	White-throated Sparrow	Pink bill
Lincoln's Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Buff band
Chestnut-colored Longspur*	Lapland Longspur	White sides of tail

Note: Some of these birds may seem awfully far-fetched, but a good many of them are undoubtedly present within our census area – and unless they are carefully watched for, will be overlooked. Nearly all of the species listed have been reported within 200 miles of here at about this time of year.

DON'T YOU DARE report any of the above on the basis of the above characteristics alone.

12/24/1953 [CSR]

Marshes for Tomorrow initiative brings habitat restoration and marshbird research to Irish Grove

by Bri Panos, Dave Curson, and Henrietta Bellman

Photos and prepared map by Bri Panos

Maryland supports more than 160,000 acres of tidal salt and brackish marsh, more than any other state in the Northeast Region of the United States. These marshes are home to a unique assemblage of birds that have evolved within this wetland ecosystem and whose lifecycle is deeply entwined and dependent on it. The biggest threat to tidal marshes in Maryland is climate-driven sea level rise. Computer models such as SLAMM (Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model) predict that almost all of today's tidal marshes in the state will be completely inundated by 2100. Marsh loss, through interior erosion, is already well underway in Maryland, as high marsh converts to low marsh and open water threatens salt marsh bird populations, including the Saltmarsh Sparrow and Black Rail.

Marshes for Tomorrow is an initiative led by Audubon Mid-Atlantic to identify, conserve, and restore high marsh habitat on Maryland's Eastern Lower Shore. While not every marsh can be saved from the threat of sea level rise, Marshes for Tomorrow is carefully working with its partners, including the USFWS, university researchers, land trusts, and other environmental NGOs, to select and maintain the best examples of this crucial landscape. Our project aims to identify 25,000 acres of salt marsh to be maintained long-term. Ultimately, marsh restoration at this scale has the power to save an entire ecosystem—as well as the imperiled Saltmarsh Sparrow— and along with it, economic benefits to fisheries, tourism, and local communities.

In collaboration with the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), the Marshes for Tomorrow Team identified the Irish Grove Sanctuary in Somerset County as a potential restoration site to improve the health and resiliency of this salt marsh and for the birds found there. Over time, and as a result of climate-driven sea level rise, water has become trapped on the marsh surface. This has caused plant die-back and waterlogging, leading to the valuable high marsh habitat converting into low marsh. Marshes for Tomorrow is aiming to use restoration techniques such as runnels, which are shallow channels dug into the marsh, to assist in draining water off the marsh and restoring tidal flow as a means to alleviate the waterlogging issue at the property. As members of MOS know, the Irish Grove Sanctuary is one of the best places in the state to see Saltmarsh Sparrow. Historically, it is a location where Black Rail has been heard, a species that is very difficult to see and hear due to its secretive nature. The Irish Grove Sanctuary is a great location for birding throughout the whole year and is highly cherished by MOS members and the local communities.

The marsh at Irish Grove Sanctuary

A female Saltmarsh Sparrow caught during bird-banding surveys.

For a few weeks over the summer of 2024, the Marshes for Tomorrow Team stayed at the Irish Grove farm house as an operation base. Most of our field days started early so we could be at our sampling locations before sunrise. Before any restoration action is implemented, it is crucial to collect baseline information so we can properly assess the outcomes of any habitat manipulation. A team of biologists and ecologists, led by Audubon Mid-Atlantic, worked together at the site between the months of May to July to collect bird, vegetation, elevation, soils, and hydrological data. The Saltmarsh Habitat and Avian Research Program (SHARP), a research collaborative of universities in the Northeastern US,

Marshes for Tomorrow initiative

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has developed protocol for bird monitoring in tidal marshes, and these techniques were used in our data collection. Specifically, we employed point counts and playback surveys, mist-netting and banding, nest searching, and autonomous recording units, or ARUs.

One of the most common methods of avian surveys used in wildlife studies is point counts. Point counts and playback surveys tell us what species are being detected, and in turn, what species are not present. They also give us a brief idea of breeding birds within the marsh using playback/callback responses. At the Irish Grove Sanctuary, point counts were completed at 18 points. Each point was surveyed twice between May 20th until July 9th. Observers stood at a point for five minutes passively listening and observing all birds within a 100m circle. After the listening period, observers transitioned to the playback survey where we broadcast a series of bird calls across the marsh for seven minutes and listen for any responses. The broadcast includes vocalizations of Black Rails, Least Bitterns, Virginia Rails, King Rails, Clapper Rails, Common Gallinules, and Song Sparrows, which are considered focal marsh species. Thirty-eight species were detected at the Irish Grove property across the summer, and 16 Saltmarsh Sparrow were detected at eight points.

As part of our baseline data collection, understanding breeding patterns/behavior is important in interpreting how key species are using the existing landscape and might imply the health of the marsh. This can help inform the necessary and appropriate conservation efforts. To understand breeding behavior, we used the SHARP Rapid Assessment (RA) Protocol at four locations at Irish Grove; a series of survey techniques including point counts, mist-netting and banding, nest-searching and observing breeding behavior. Two of these RA locations were placed within areas of observed marsh degradation and where restoration efforts could be implemented. The other two locations were nearby in areas of quality high marsh. Each RA location was surveyed twice, beginning in June and ending in July. A total of 16 Saltmarsh Sparrows (14 males and 2 females) and 34 Seaside Sparrows were caught. Other species caught during the mist-netting included Red-winged Blackbirds and Marsh Wrens. At these locations, we found one Virginia Rail, one Clapper Rail, and two Seaside Sparrow nests. Unfortunately, we did not find any Saltmarsh Sparrow nests, but did note that all adults showed physical signs of breeding (i.e. brood patch and swollen cloaca).

The use of mist-netting and banding and nest searching builds upon the point count surveys, giving us a more detailed idea of breeding bird populations. Banding birds allows us to see breeding condition and the proportion of males to females within a location, while nest searching shows us proof of breeding for salt marsh species.

ARUs are a form of passive surveying technique. Marsh birds, particularly species of rail, are difficult to detect due to their secretive, and often nocturnal, behavior. That is why we chose to use these recording units. While we wish we could be out in the marsh 24/7, that is not feasible, and even then, we

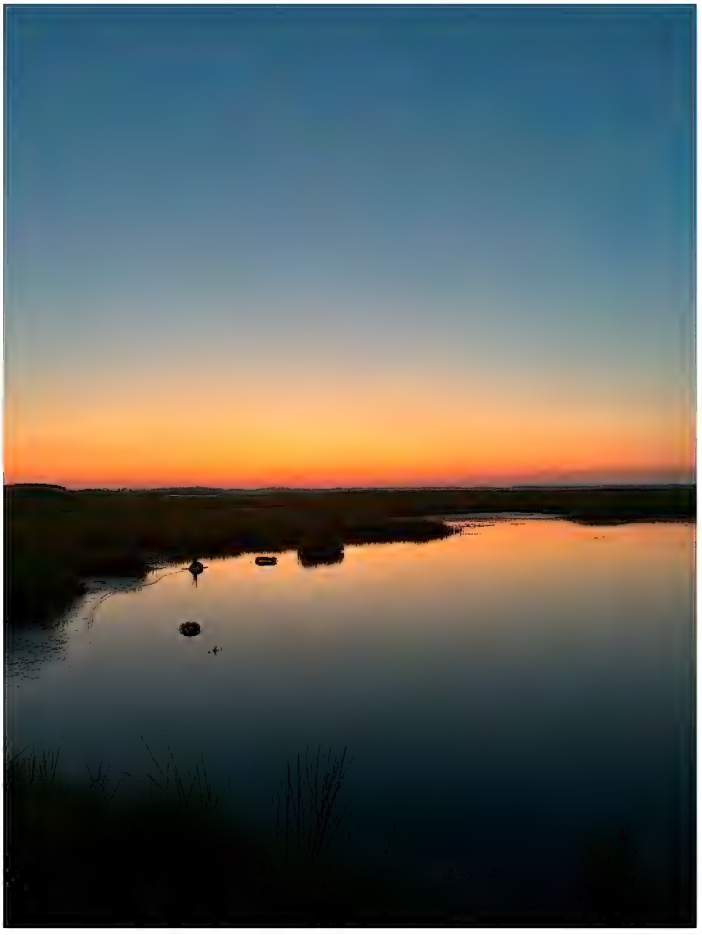
A Seaside Sparrow nest found during nest searching

cannot be everywhere at once! Setting up ARUs gives us the opportunity to have our "ears in the marsh" for longer stretches of time and during hours we normally would not be able to work. Our ARUs were installed on posts at six predetermined locations recording all sounds from sunset to sunrise from late May until July 10th. These units recorded over 1,500 hours of audio data. We are still working through these data to understand the soundscape across the Irish Grove Sanctuary.

When we weren't busy collecting biological data, we ate meals together inside and outside in the screened porch at the farm house, experiencing both the beautiful sunrises and sunsets that the property boasts. One particular field day, around 4 am, we were greeted by a beautiful light show of fireflies hovering above the marsh. We often saw Diamondback Terrapins crossing Rumbley Point Road, and sometimes we saw other species like Painted Turtles and Snapping Turtles! But terrestrial creatures weren't the only exciting sightings. Some of our surveys required that we take a boat out to the western side of the property, and during one of our boat rides, we encountered a pod of dolphins in the bay waters! These additional sightings underscored the incredible beauty of the Irish Grove Sanctuary and how important it is to protect into the future.

Marshes for Tomorrow initiative

Continued from Page 15



A sunrise at Irish Grove Sanctuary

All together, these techniques work well with one another and provide a clearer picture of the health of the marsh with regards to the birds that live within it. We learned a lot about the marsh this summer, both as a team and as individuals. At some points, we were even able to have members of the media come out and film the marsh and our work, hoping to highlight the importance of this beautiful ecosystem for Maryland Public Television. It was a wonderful experience that we were proud to be able to share with others. The team plans on returning to the property next summer to conduct additional monitoring, following the same protocols that were utilized this summer.

We would like to thank our partners at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Towson University, and the SHARP team at the University of Delaware for their support in our research. We would also like to extend a thank you to the members of MOS and the MOS Sanctuaries Committee for working with us to better understand the health of this critical piece of marsh in the Lower Eastern Shore. We would like to thank our funders at the USFWS and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for providing us the financial means to work on this project as well.

An ARU placed at Irish Grove

Map showing survey locations mentioned

Peregrines Across Maryland - A Photo Essay

By Marcia Watson

Now that we have almost five full years of Breeding Bird Atlas data available through the BBA3 portal on eBird (https://ebird.org/atlasmddc/home), we combed through eBird and the Macaulay Library to put together a collection of photographs, submitted by atlasers, to illustrate the diversity of Peregrine Falcon nesting situations in Maryland and DC.

Peregrine Falcons have long captured the attention of ornithologists and the public alike, widely admired for their beauty and renowned for their daring, lightning-fast aerial strikes on prey. They have an almost worldwide distribution, nesting in varied habitats including tundra, forests, cliffsides, plains, and wetlands. Peregrines occur on every continent except Antarctica.[1]

Peregrines were historically present in Maryland in small numbers, as documented in accounts going back to the 1800s.[2] In their landmark treatise, Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Stewart and Robbins documented ten Peregrine cliff nest sites spread among five Maryland counties.[3] However, sometime in the 1950s, Peregrines disappeared as a breeding species in Maryland, one of the victims of the pesticide DDT, which causes eggshell thinning and total failure of nesting.[4]

Peregrines were re-introduced in Maryland starting in 1975 through a multi-agency effort that included the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the US Fish and Wildlife Services, and the non-profit Peregrine Fund. Various reintroduction efforts eventually led in the 1980s to a technique involving placing birds on tall wooden towers erected on islands in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Additionally, some young birds were successfully placed with a foster female Peregrine Falcon in a nest on top of the US Fidelity and Guaranty Building (now known as the Transamerica Building) in downtown Baltimore. Through trial and error, these reintroduction efforts eventually were successful, but somewhat ironically the reintroduction resulted in a breeding population of Peregrine Falcons around the Chesapeake Bay, far away from their historic cliffside nesting sites in western Maryland.[5]

In 2021, Glenn Therres, Craig Koppie, and Matt Olear, biologists who participated in the reintroduction program, published a detailed article in Maryland Birdlife that documented 40 known nesting sites of Peregrine Falcons since the first reintroduction through 2020. Of the 40 sites in the Birdlife article, only 20 of these were active at the time of publication; the other 20 sites had fallen into disuse or were on structures that no longer existed.

Therres et al. split the nesting sites into five categories: 1) manmade wooden towers erected in marshes on islands in the southern Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay; 2) bridges; 3) buildings such as the aforementioned Transamerica Building; 4) other structures – an assortment of manmade towers, lighthouses, buoys and other navigation markers, water towers, and industrial structures such as cement plants, power stations, and so on; and 5) natural cliffs or cliffs in commercial quarries.

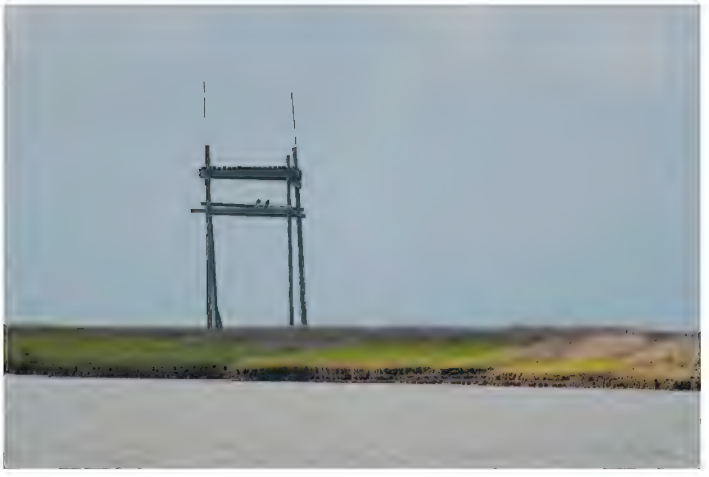
Our perusal of BBA3 data and photographs showed that, of the 40 sites listed in Therres et al., just over half are apparently still active, with a total of 14 being confirmed and another 7 being coded as probable or possible. Remember that the Therres et al.article showed that of the 40 sites listed, 20 were no longer active in 2020. A couple of those have come back into usage, and a couple of others that were active in 2020 are not active at this time.

BBA3 atlasers were able to add some new nest sites to the list, including one on a bridge, three on buildings, 2 on "other structures," and 3 on cliffs. One of these sites is on a building in DC, not included in the Therres et al. article.

Most impressive of all, BBA atlasers have amassed an unprecedented collection of photographs of peregrine nest sites, all of which are freely available for public viewing through eBird. We present here a sampling of these photographs, all provided with permission of the photographers. We heartily thank these photographers for their generosity in sharing their work, and for their persistence, diligence, and long hours spent in obtaining these photos and documenting the nesting locations of Peregrine Falcons in Maryland.

Marsh Towers

Margaret Poethig, Atlas coordinator for Somerset County, went out in the summer of 2024 with a small atlasing team on a hired boat to visit some of the locations that hosted the manmade wooden marsh towers listed in the Therres at al. article. She managed to obtain photographs of peregrines at two separate locations on South Marsh Island, which lies just north of Smith Island in the Chesapeake Bay, in waters of Somerset County. These are important photos because the state of Maryland is no longer monitoring these tower locations (C. Koppie, personal communication).



Margaret Poethig, 20 Jun 2024, South Marsh Island- north end, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML620682178

Margaret Poethig, 10 Jun 2024, South Marsh Island – north end, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML620445343).

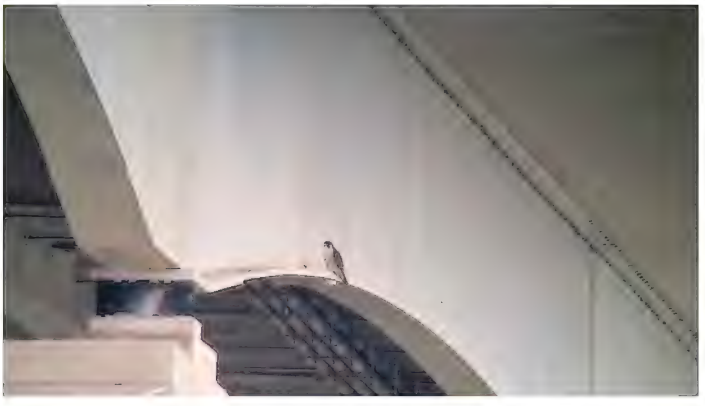
Bridges

We found photographs in eBird of peregrines nesting, or possibly nesting at six of the bridges listed in the Therres et al. article: the Solomons Island Bridge on Route 4, crossing between Calvert and St. Mary's Counties; the Chesapeake City Bridge on Route 213 in Cecil County; the American Legion Bridge on I-495 outside DC, crossing between Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax County, VA; the Woodrow Wilson Bridge on I-495, crossing between DC and Prince George's County, MD; the Monocacy River Railroad Bridge in Frederick County; and the now destroyed Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

Tyler Bell, 22 May 2022, Solomons Island Bridge, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML451966901)

Mark R Johnson, 9 Jun 202, Chesapeake City Bridge, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML242212031)

David Roberts, 25 May 2022, American Legion Bridge, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML453241661)



Marisa Rositol, 23 Mar 2024, Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML616384192)

As everyone knows, the Francis Scott Key Bridge on I-695 in Baltimore collapsed on March 26, 2024, when struck by a container ship. Here we present before and after photos – young Peregrines photographed by David Smith at the nest site on the bridge in 2020, and a recent photo by Fred Shaffer of one of the adult peregrines who continue to visit the still-standing approach ramps to the bridge. Fred says that he often sees the adult peregrines on the remnants of the bridge when he is kayaking in the area.

David Smith, 3 Jun 2020, Francis Scott Key Bridge, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML241029171)

Fred Shaffer, 2 Aug 2024,Francis Scott Key Bridge, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML622098176)

Buildings

The Birdlife article in 2021 cited four tall buildings with nesting peregrines: the Transamerica office building in downtown Baltimore; two high-rise hotels in Ocean City; and the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel in Silver Spring. Of these, only the nest on the Transamerica Building is still active; peregrines are no longer nesting at the other three sites, although individuals can often be found in Ocean City and in Silver Spring. In the breeding season, the Transamerica nest site is the subject of a live nest cam hosted by the Chesapeake Conservancy at https://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/falconcam/. No photos of this nest site have been submitted to eBird, but we present screengrabs from a video recorded through the nest cam, made available on the Baltimore Heritage channel on YouTube at https://youtu.be/OMeCMA3nU5Q?si=cuWyCKx7fzSFrurX,

Screengrab from undated video showing adult peregrine and three eggs at the Transamerica Building in Baltimore; https://youtu.be/OMeCMA3nU5Q?si=cuWyCKx7fzSFrurX..

Screengrab from undated video showing four downy young in nest at the Transamerica Building in Baltimore ;https://youtu.be/OMeCMA3nU5Q?si=

cuWyCKx7fzSFrurX..

Other Structures

An assortment of 13 different structures on which peregrines nested was identified in the 2021 Therres et al. article; of these, five have been confirmed as active nest sites in BBA3 and one (the Craighill Channel Light at Millers Island) is shown as a possible nest site in BBA3. And a couple of new sites – the Holland Bar Lighthouse and a channel marker off Crisfield – were confirmed for nesting in BBA3. Here is a sampling of photos from these active nest sites, including a couple of very unique structures.

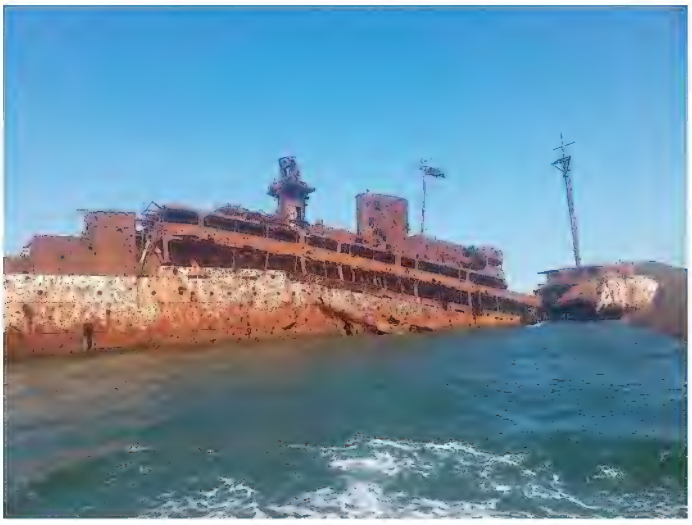
Channel marker off Crisfield in Somerset County – a new site in BBA3. Photo by Dave Wilson/Delmarva Birding Weekends, 9 Jun 2021, near Crisfield Dock, Somerset County, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML241029171).

The Holland Bar Light, in the Chesapeake Bay in Dorchester County waters is another new site documented in BBA3. Photo by Kyle Rambo, 15 Jun 2021, Holland Bar Light, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML348111951)

Conowingo Dam, spanning the Susquehanna River between Harford and Cecil Counties. The peregrines nest in the metal framework above the dam on the Harford County side – continuing since at least 2011. Many photographers have captured peregrines flying near the dam, but this photo is the only image showing a young bird at the actual nest site.

Photo by Mark R Johnson, 31 May 2021, Conowingo Dam, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML344010651)

Certainly the most unusual of peregrine nest sites, is the Hannibal Target ship, a rusted hulk calling to mind a ghost ship fit for the Pirates of the Caribbean movie series. The Hannibal Target Ship is a former transport ship used in World War II, now stationed in the Chesapeake Bay near the US Navy's facility on Bloodsworth Island, and used by the Navy for target practice. This particular ship was actually named the American Mariner when in service, but is called the Hannibal to commemorate an earlier ship that occupied the same position.[6] The original Hannibal dated back to 1898 and saw service in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II; she also was used extensively in marine survey work. In 1945, the original Hannibal was sunk in the Chesapeake Bay to use for Navy target practice, but after deterioration, was eventually replaced. The present ship, the former American Mariner, was positioned for target practice in 1966. The photos of peregrines at the Hannibal were taken by US Navy employee Kyle Rambo on two separate occasions in 2021 and 2022.

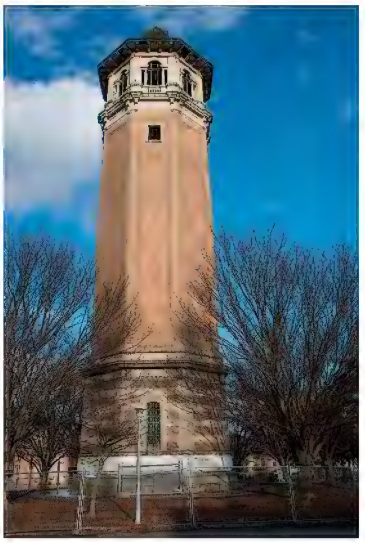


Hannibal Target Ship, in the Chesapeake Bay off the Navy's Bloodsworth Island – new in BBA3

Kyle Rambo, 31 May 2022, Hannibal Target Ship, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML455261661).

The Roland Park Water Tower is one of the nesting sites listed in the Therres et al. article, and is notable for the extremely large number of high-quality peregrine photographs that have been submitted to eBird from this site. This nesting site has been active since 2016 and continuing through this year.

When you read the words "water tower," you probably envision one of those ubiquitous bulbous metal structures on long struts, sometimes covered with graffiti. But the Roland Park Water Tower is no such humble structure. Located at 4210 Roland Avenue in the Roland Park residential neighborhood in the City of Baltimore, the tower was built by skilled craftsmen in 1905 of stone, brick, and glazed terra cotta



[7], and today stands as a venerable and beloved historical landmark in the Roland Park community. See photo at left, courtesy of the Roland Park Community Foundation.

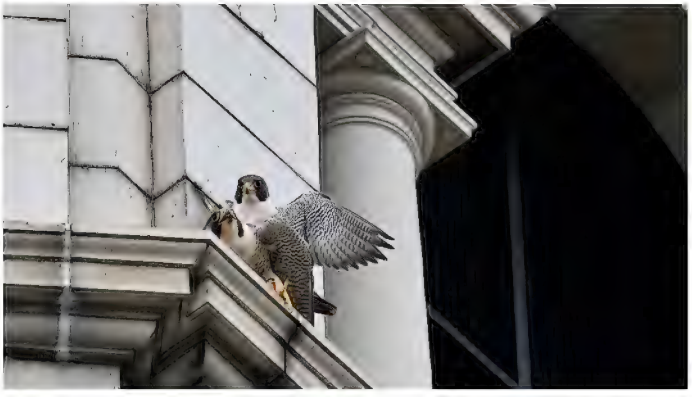
[Do not confuse the location of the Roland Park Water Tower with the similarly named Lake Roland Park, which is a community park owned by Baltimore County. The Water Tower is NOT in the park.]

The tower has not been used to hold water since the 1930s, when the City of Baltimore upgraded its water system. In recent years, after years of neglect and deterioration, the tower was extensively renovated under the auspices of the Roland Park Community Foundation.[8]You can read about the special care the peregrines were given during the Tower's renovation on the Roland Park community's website at https://rolandpark.org/organizationscommittees/roland-park-community-foundation/watertower/roland-water-tower-peregrine-falcons/.

Today the Roland Park Tower continues as one of the most reliable and easy-to-reach spots to see and photograph Peregrine Falcons. We offer here just a few photos of peregrines at the Tower. For hundreds more photos, go to eBird and search the Macaulay Library of photos using this link: https://media.ebird.org/catalog?taxonCode=perfal&regionCode=L10704811.

Juvenile (note the vertical markings on the breast). Photo by Wendy Crowe, 5 Jul 2022, Roland Park Water Tower, Baltimore, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML465181281).

Adult (note the horizontal barring on the breast). Photo by Terry Ross, 28 May 2019, Roland Park Water Tower, Baltimore, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML161469531).



Pair of adults copulating. Photo by Søren Bentzen, 12 Mar 2023, Roland Park Water Tower, Baltimore, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML544771741).

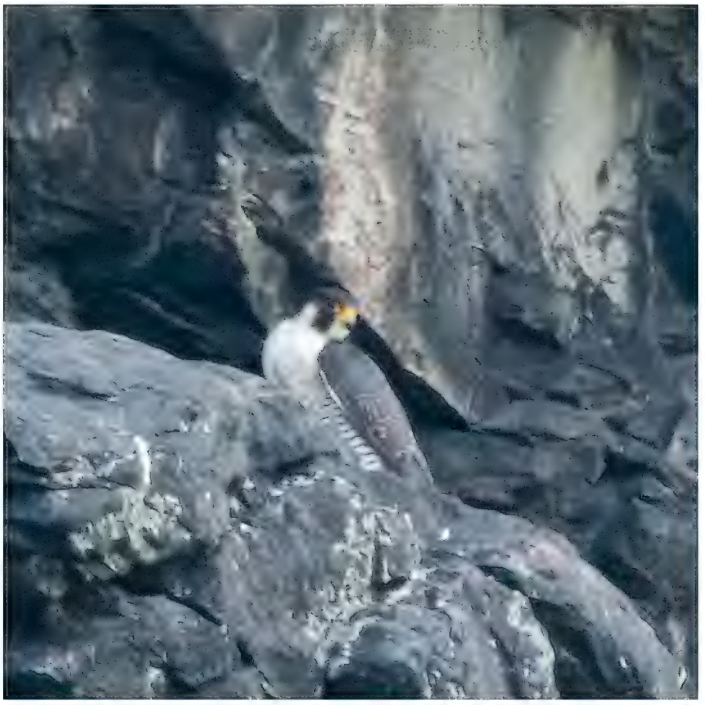
To learn more about the Roland Park peregrines, we highly recommend a series of articles in Chip Notes, the newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club, available online at the links in the box below. Most of the Chip Notes articles and photos are by Terry Ross and/or Mike McCloskey.

Chip Notes Articles about the Roland Park Peregrine Falcons

Summer 2019, page 1: https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn1902.pdf
Fall 2019, page 4: https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn1903.pdf
Winter 2019, page 4: https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn1904.pdf
Spring 2020, page 5: https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2001.pdf
Summer 2020, page 5https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2002.pdf
Fall 2020, page 1: https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2003.pdf
Winter 2020, page 4:https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2004.pdf
Summer 2021, page 4https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2102.pdf
Fall 2021, page 7:https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2103.pdf
Fall 2022, page 2:https://baltimorebirdclub.org/cn/cn2203.pdf

Cliffs

The 2021 Birdlife article listed three active nest sites on natural cliffs: at Maryland Heights in Washington County, on cliffs overlooking Harper's Ferry; on Wills Mountain at Cumberland Narrows just north of Cumberland in Allegany County; and on cliffs in a quarry in Marriottsville, Baltimore County. Of these, the Maryland Heights and the Marriottsville quarry were confirmed



Lynn Gregg, 15 Jul 2021, Maryland Heights on the C&O Canal at Harper's Ferry, Washington County, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML354608111).

During BBA3, birders documented three new cliff nesting sites: in a quarry in Cecil County; on cliffs that are actually in West Virginia but that can be observed from a site in Maryland, near Cumberland (this nest is in a BBA3 atlas block, despite the WV location); and --- most spectacularly --- on cliffs at Point of Rocks in Frederick County. Like the Roland Park Water Tower, the Point of Rocks cliff location has a vantage point that is relatively easy to reach along the C&O Canal Towpath, and this location has resulted in hundreds of spectacular photos on eBird, including the photo by Matt Felperin on the back cover. Here (and on the front cover) are spectacular photos taken by Jim Ivett at Point of Rocks over several days in June 2023.

Adult feeding young. Jim Ivett, 7 Jun 2023, Point of Rocks on the C&O Canal, Frederick County, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML597981881).

Four young in nest. Jim Ivett, 9 Jun 2023, Point of Rocks on the C&O Canal, Frederick County, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML595057701).

Adult delivering food to young in nest. Jim Ivett, 14 Jun 2023, Point of Rocks on the C&O Canal, Frederick County, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML595032241).

To see hundreds of photos by additional photographers at Point of Rocks, go to eBird and search the Macaulay Library of photos using one or both of these links:

https://media.ebird.org/catalog?taxonCode=perfal&regionCode=L159372

https://media.ebird.org/catalog?taxonCode=perfal&regionCode=L983891

Peregrines Out and About in Maryland

With all of the documented nesting activity, it is now possible to see peregrines at many different locations in Maryland, both during the breeding season and overwintering. Keep your eyes open and your camera ready!

A pair of adults on the Dairy Maid water tower in Frederick. Jeff reports that this location was visible from his kitchen window, and he often viewed the pair of falcons here, although the nest was at another location. Jeff Smith, 26 Jun 2020, Dairy Maid Water Tower, Frederick, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab,ML246155551

Adult peregrine with kill, on the roof of the ornate tower at the Allegany County Courthouse near the Cumberland Terminus of the C&O Canal in Cumberland. Photo by Mark R. Johnson, 23 Oct 2019, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab,ML184014001

Adult peregrine at Druid Hill Park. Peregrines are often seen at the park, and a nesting location on an apartment building adjacent to the park was documented during BBA3. Photo by Kyle Smith, 10 Feb 2023, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab, ML613286393.

This photo gives new meaning to the term "head shot." Photo by Brad Balliett at the George Washington statue in Mount Vernon Place in downtown Baltimore, 3 Mar 2024, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab, ML615614680. This photo is actually a stillshot from a slo-mo video shot by Brad and viewable at

https://x.com/balliettbrad/status/1765824121206714466?s=46&t=Fl3Ll5Qcq3SBdKnheBLs-w

[1] White, C. M., N. J. Clum, T. J. Cade, and W. G. Hunt (2020). Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (S. M. Billerman, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.perfal.01

[2] Therres, G.D. (1996). Peregrine Falcon Species Account, in Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Chandler S. Robbins (Senior Editor) and Eirik A. T. Blom (Project Coordinator), University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, pp. 112-113.

[3]Stewart, R.E. and C. S. Robbins, (1958),Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, North America Fauna #62. Published by US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

[4] Therres G.D. (1996) Ibid.

[5] Therres, G.D., C.A. Koppie, and M.T. Olear (2021). Nesting of the Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) in Maryland since reintroduction of the species.Maryland Birdlife, Vol. 70, Number 2, pp. 41-70.

[6] Wikipedia, USS Hannibal, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Hannibal, accessed 11 Oct 2024.

[7] 'Roland Park Water Tower Restoration, on the website of Lewis Contractors, https://www.lewis-contractors.com/project/cultural-community/roland-park-water-tower-restoration/, accessed 10/10/24.

[8] Roland Park Water Tower Project, on the website of the Roland Park Community Organization, https://rolandpark.org/organizationscommittees/roland-park-community-foundation/watertower/, accessed 10/10/24.

[9] Therres, G.D., C.A. Koppie, and M.T. Olear (2021). Nesting of the Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) in Maryland since reintroduction of the species. Maryland Birdlife, Vol. 70, Number 2, pp. 41-70.

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Juvenile Peregrine. Photo by Terry Ross, 20 May 2020, Roland Park Water Tower, Baltimore, Macaulay Library at Cornell Lab (ML236932091).

Bird Notes from Down Under

By Toni Evans, Photos by Bruce Evans

In July 2024, a group of fourteen, led by Bill Buskirk and Marianne Cope, birded across Australia. Bill, retired professor of Ornithology at Earlham College, has led many such trips since his retirement. Our local guide was Steve Potter of Bellbird Tours. Over the course of two and a half weeks we traversed the continent during its austral winter, visiting a range of habitats and logging 256 species of birds.

Our trip began in Adelaide, South Australia. Although it was winter, there were flowers and fruits aplenty in the Botanic Gardens, and we thrilled to the Rainbow Lorikeets, Eastern Spinetails, and New Holland Honeyeaters as they foraged, heedless of our gasps of wonder. We next visited Bel Air National Park where we saw our only Koala of the trip and our first, but not last, Kookaburra in an old gum tree.

We next ventured up into the Flinders Ranges where we felt winter's chill indeed, but we were not deterred, and our forays into the field brought a new and more beautiful parrot or cockatoo every day, from Sulfur-crested Cockatoos, ubiquitous Galahs, and Little Corellas to Mulga Parrots, Australian Ringnecks, and Greater Bluebonnets. Our visit to Arid Lands Botanic Gardens turned up Red Wattlebird and our stay in Ikara Flinders National Park led to Wedge-tailed Eagle and Apostlebirds.

Pale Yellow Robin, Mount Hypipamee NP

From south to north, cold to hot, we flew from Adelaide to Darwin where we birded the coastal beaches and mangrove thickets to find secretive Chestnut Rails, and jewel-like Azure and Sacred Kingfishers. The beaches boasted Far Eastern Curlews and Beach Thickknees, Red-capped Plovers and Great Knots.

We took several boat tours on our trip, that being the safest way to look for waterbirds and avoid fresh and saltwater crocodiles. On one of our trips up the canyons of Nitmiluk National Park we were lucky enough to see Great-billed Heron. Whenever we visited any wetlands, we were strongly cautioned and restricted from approaching too close to the water's edge.

While we visited many established parks and birding sites, our guide Steve was just as apt to pull over to the side of the road, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, and roust out Partridge

Azure Kingfisher, Darwin coast

Pigeons, Cockatiels, Jacky Winters, Gouldian Finches, and Black-tailed Treecreepers. At one of his famous "field breakfasts" we were in such a hurry to see the Australian Owlet-Nightjar nestled in its little hollow that several bowls of granola were abandoned in the road and may or may not have been returned to their original owner.

Of course, no birding tour is complete without a visit to water treatment plants, and after we had finished admiring Pied Stilts and Australian Pratincoles, we crossed over some railroad tracks to find Australian Bustards, and Red-backed Fairywrens, a life dream of some of our party.

Red-backed Fairywren, Northern Territory

From there we boarded our trusty van and set off to explore Kakadu National Park. At two and a half times the size of Yellowstone National Park, there was a lot to explore, and we covered a lot of it. The park is under the management of traditional owners, aboriginal peoples, and we are grateful that they made us welcome and shared it with us. We were impressed that on every flight, and at every site, there were acknowledgments of the heritage of the traditional peoples. We saw some extraordinary examples of rock art that go back thousands of years.

From Kakadu we went to Cairns in Queensland to cover the coast. We took a boat trip out to Michaelmas Cay and were treated to the sight of hundreds of nesting Brown Boobies and Sooty Terns a hand's breadth away, as well as delicate Brown Noddies and Little Terns riding the winds and waves. It was hard to tear ourselves away to snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, but we did and enjoyed the variety of corals and tropical fish.

From the dry bushland, we were now in the rainforests of the East. Although it was supposedly the dry season, we had our share of rain, but we birded on. At Crater Lakes National Park we thrilled to Victoria's Riflebird, Spotted Catbirds, and Wompoo Fruit Doves. At night we were treated to the antics of Ring-tailed Opossum, Bandicoots and Flying Squirrels at our lodging at Chambers Rainforest Lodge. Speaking of mammals, we enjoyed seeing several species of kangaroo in the South and several species of wallaby in the North and East. We went to Granite Gorge to see the highly endangered Rock Wallabies and while there saw Squatter Pigeons and Pale-headed Rosella. Our visits to wetlands turned up Lovely Fairywrens and Scarlet Myzomelas.

Australian Brush Turkey, Crater Lake NP

We finished up in Daintree National Forest, which is still recovering from the impact of the tropical cyclone Jasper that struck In December of 2023. On one of our river trips, besides a Papuan Frogmouth, we saw huge trees uprooted and flung into nearby pastures, and tree trunks deposited in treetops 20 feet above our heads. Our last day of birding we finally saw the elusive Cassowary as we drove down the road in the rain. Due to traffic, Steve could only slow down, open the van door and let us gape at this prehistoric wonder.

Steve was relentless in finding birds and getting everyone on the bird, every single time, no small feat with a group of fourteen with a wide range of birding experience.

Wompoo Fruit Dove, Jindalba Boardwalk, Cairns

it was interesting to note that despite the absolute riot of splendid birds we saw, we didn't see many birders. There were only three occasions when there were a number of birders about, at iconic sites such as Fogg Dam wetlands, and we were an object of curiosity everywhere with our binoculars and large cameras. Also, in preparation for the trip, there was a paucity of e-Bird lists to study from. We left 85 such lists in our wake, which will hopefully help future travelers. When we did encounter other birders, they were, as is our experience everywhere, kindly helpful. They gave us tips on where to get Mangrove Robin, and we shared views of Barking Owl in our scope.

This was a bittersweet trip for us all, as our dear leader Bill announced it would be his last trip. He has Parkinson's disease, and despite his all-terrain chariot, Babe, he has decided this type of trip is no longer a possibility for him. It was a privilege to share in this last international adventure with him.

Barking Owl, Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve

CHAPTER CHATTER

by Jean Wheeler

CECIL COUNTY

It had been put off for about five years with the pandemic, and then Kim expressed an interest in seeing some unusual birds. Kim and Ken Drier took flight to Papua New Guinea (PNG) with the Partnership for International Birding to see some Birds of Paradise (BoP). It was perhaps fifteen years ago they visited the National Geographic Center in Washington to see a Bird of Paradise exhibit after all the birds had been photographed, that sparked Ken's interest in a visit to New Guinea. Kim jumped on board after reviewing the book that accompanied the exhibition. This past August found the two of them journeying to New Guinea for two weeks hoping to see some Birds of Paradise. Five hours to Los Angeles, 15 to Brisbane, Australia and then onward for another three hours before landing in Port Moresby, the capital of PNG around noon. After being picked up and transferred to the lodge and lunch, it was time to explore. There were five birders on the tour plus the guide and then a local guide. First stop was the Pacific Adventist University grounds. Over forty species were found that first afternoon including Torresian Imperial-Pigeon, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, Papuan Eclectus, a type of parrot, the colorful Rainbow Bee-eater, Comb-crested Jacana and the bizarre Papuan Frogmouth, a kind of nightjar. Off to a good start.

Varirata National Park about an hour's drive from Port Moresby was on tap for the next day when the official tour began and all members had finally arrived. The park is on a mountain top overlooking the Coral Sea. PNG has more kingfisher species than any other country. Yellow-billed, Sacred, Forest and Common Kingfishers were found that first morning in the park. Orange-bellied, Orange-fronted and Pink-spotted Fruit Doves were also seen. With pink being Kim's favorite color this was a treat. Singing Starling and Red-capped Flowerpecker rounded out the day's highlights. A return visit was in store the next day to visit a lek for the National Bird of PNG, our first Bird of Paradise, the colorful Raggiana Bird of Paradise. This involved getting up at 5 AM and heading out. Most days we were up and out between 4 and 5 AM seeking owls or nightjars. The Raggiana did not disappoint. About twenty males were hanging upside down in the trees and fluttering about as the females stopped to check out the scene. Long fluffy red tails with yellow and green faces, these birds are amazing. Add on three more Fruit Doves - White-breasted, Ornate and Wompoo - and the Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher and two species of Kookaburras, and you have a non-too-shabby day. Let's not forget the Tiger Parrots, Blyth's Hornbills, and the New Guinea Harpy Eagle as well.

An early morning flight to the Mount Hagen and the cloud forest area was on tap for the next day, where Kim and Ken would be spending the rest of their time divided between two lodges. This was up around 10,000 feet of elevation. Cold and damp with little heat or hot water in the rooms. Ken was drying socks and clothes under the electric blanket provided in the first lodge that had no heat. This was a big difference from Port Moresby on the coast where it was about 90 degrees. What the first lodge did have though were feeders situated behind the dinning room and a covered veranda. What was to be found there? Brown Sicklebill and the Ribbon-tailed Astrapia Birds of Paradise along with Belford's

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Photo by Ken Drier

Melidectes (Honeyeater), Stella's Lorikeet with its long tail, and Rufous-naped and Piping Bellbirds. Plenty of action to enjoy from the comfort of cover during the incessant rain.

Above the clouds, the next several days were spent hiking up rock slides, abandoned roads and forest trails to seek out several more species of BoP. First up was a treacherous climb up a rock slide to witness the Blue BoP with its long tail sitting out in the open on a tree over a steep cliff. That afternoon, besides the King-of-Saxony BoP, Ken notched life bird number 1999, the Magnificent BoP while minutes later found him looking at a Superb BoP for life bird number 2000. The next

Lesser Bird of Paradise, Photo by Steve Oakley

day, a hike to a mountain top blind provided excellent views of a Lesser BoP displaying and doing somersaults to the amazement of all. Stephanie's Astrapia, another species of BoP, with its long flowing tail was often seen flying between trees at those high elevations. Several more species of Tiger Parrots and lorikeets were found as well. On the last full day of the trip, great looks were had of the huge Papuan King Parrot with its red head and front, green wings, and long gray tail as a pair sit out on the open in a tree along the side of a mountain road. In all Kim and Ken saw eleven BoP, seven species of kingfishers, ten species of parrots, six different nightjars and owls, six honeyeaters and eleven colorful dove/pigeons. Kim on her first true birding adventure had the time of her life, especially watching the Lesser Bird of Paradise in the blind. While Ken was of course happy to grab his 2000th life bird and have it be the Superb BoP to boot. Ken Drier

Belford's Melidectes, Photo by Ken Drier

Brown Sickelbill, Photo by Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

For the first time in its 75 year history, Harford Bird Club offered a unique field trip, a garden tour of members' bird-friendly properties. It was a sunny June morning with trees shading yards and flowers in bloom when 13 members traveled to 3 properties. Homeowners greeted members excited to describe the plants chosen, along with some history of the property. While these were not the grand gardens of Ladew or Longwood, each reflected the homeowners' unique ways of addressing their support of bird habitat with native plants. In addition, each homeowner has followed the writings of Dr. Douglas Tallamy, PhD entomologist, author, and co-founder of Homegrown National Park, a biodiversity

challenge for all homeowners.

The first property owners, Deb and Don Stewart, recently transitioned to more native plants after hearing Dr.Tallamy speak on the interconnection of native plants, beneficial insects, and breeding birds. They hired a native plant landscaper who reduced the lawn of their 1/4 acre property, added native plants, and installed a pond. They are pleased with their Audubon-certified Bird Friendly Habitat.

Stewart Yard, Photo by Deb Stewart

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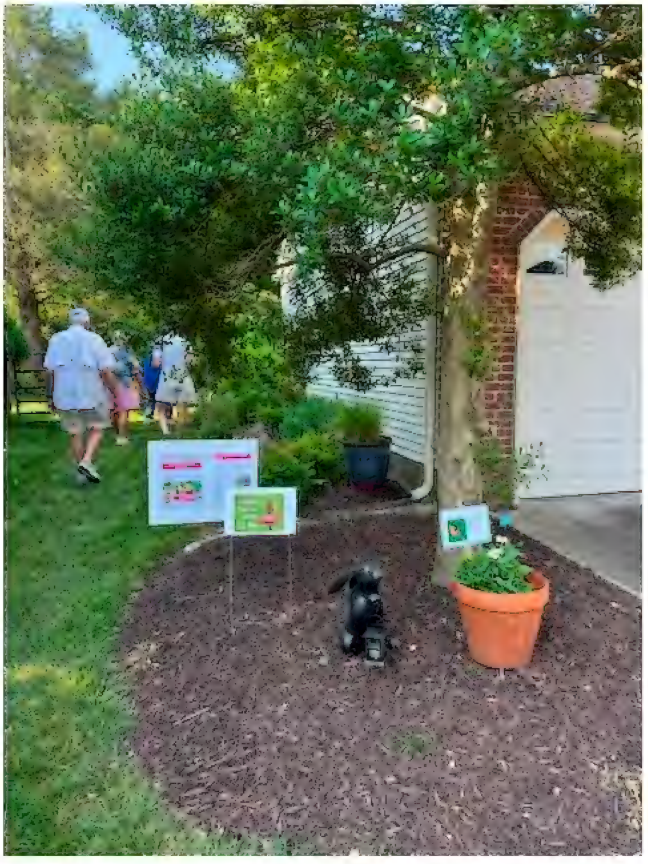


Stewart Yard Tour, Photo by Deb Stewart

he second homeowner, Eric Vangrin, is a second generation of birdwatchers/HBC members. His wooded property, formerly his parents' home, is filled with 70 foot "keystone" tree species, understory plants and a 25 foot man-made (Eric made) stream with a pump. The shaded yard is inviting with winding paths leading to seating areas and different views of the yard.

The final visit was to Lynn Feryus' property, also her childhood home, where her parents selected the original plantings for a cleared lot. Today, like the career scientist she has been, she is methodically planting natives, observing, making notes, and making changes as needed. Her yard is filled with new and old native species and host plants for butterfly larvae. The yard earned a Bay Wise certification.

The tour was viewed as a success by all and a very original bird club field trip. President Sue Procell and Eric Vangrin, coordinator of this project, hope to make garden visits an annual event. Deb Stewart

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Stacy Rabinovitz wrote that she, Amy Christiansen, Robin Ross, and Kathy Brown chartered a boat on September 8 to find the Brown Boobies reported in Chesapeake Bay. "We knew about the boobies from eBird and from other birders who found them. We chartered a boat, from Pasadena, MD, for three hours. Our captain, (Captain Eric at Stella Charters. (www.stellacharters.com) had taken another group out, so he knew what we were looking for and where he'd been seeing them. We went to the first location, Buoy #7. We saw two boobies flying. Then we went to another buoy. No luck. We went back to #7 and we saw seven boobies fly north. One came back and landed on the buoy. It was a struggle to get photos in two-foot waves! Our captain wanted to show us Fort Carroll, and on our way there, we found three more boobies on Buoy #8. It was an excellent adventure!"

Brown Booby, Photo by Stacy Rabinovitz

Brown Boobies, Photo by Stacy Rabinovitz

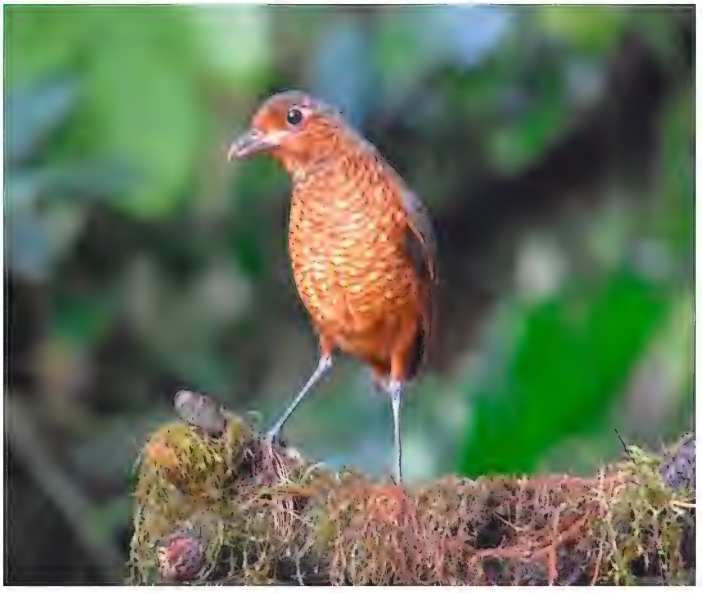
Gaurav Kapoor reported:"From June 7-14, my partner and I, along with 6 others from around the country, participated in a guided tour of Yellowstone National Park, led by Wes Larson and Hugh Simmons of Naturalist Journeys. The trip started and ended in Bozeman, Montana. We spent the first three nights in Gardiner, Montana and last four in Cooke City, Montana. Between them we drove to and through the Lamar Valley, Mammoth, Swan Lake, Grand Prismatic, Old Faithful, Slough Creek, Hayden Valley, LeHardys Rapids, and Beartooth Highway & Pass. Over the course of the trip we saw over 20 mammal species, including Pronghorn, Bison, Bighorn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Goat, Moose (including a newborn still learning to walk), elk, Coyote, Gray Wolf, Gray and Red fox, adger, and Black & Grizzly Bear (nearly 40 individual bears)! We also saw over 90 bird species, highlights included Calliope Hummingbird, HarlequinDuck, WesternTanager, Lazuli Bunting, Sandhill Crane, Golden Eagle, Swainson's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Kestrel, Canada Jay, Mountain Bluebird, and Black Rosy-Finch. It was the trip of a lifetime, and we'd recommend these guides to anyone who has a love of nature and wants to expand their knowledge of Yellowstone and it's inhabitants." Chris Wright

TALBOT COUNTY

Northern Ecuador: A Ten-day Birding Adventure

Three members and one former member of our MOS Chapter enjoyed a wonderful trip to Ecuador on April 21-30 of this year. Participants included Wayne Bell, Paul Thut and daughter Julie O'Donnell, and Les Coble, now of the Carolina Bird Club. The tour, led by superb birder and botanist Andrés del la Torre, was organized by Road Scholar. Our itinerary covered both the Pacific (western) and Amazon Basin (eastern) slopes of the Andes Mountains at elevations ranging 1,500–10,000 ft, with a final day in the Antisana Volcano Ecological Reserve above 13,000 ft. Wayne submitted 50 eBird checklists totaling 297 species seen, including 54 hummingbirds, 31 flycatchers, and 59 tanagers.

There were two outstanding highlights. First was a visit with "Maria,"now at least a 3rd-generation Giant Antpitta at the Refugio Paz de las Aves ("Peace of Birds Sanctuary") near Mindo in the Pacific slope cloud forest. The namesake Maria was befriended in 2005 by farmer Angel Paz who, over many fruitless days, finally succeeded in enticing the bird to come to worm handouts in the woods. Maria, and the method of attracting hard-to-observe antpittas and other reticent species, have helped enhance birding ecotourism in Ecuador and beyond to the delight of visiting birders.



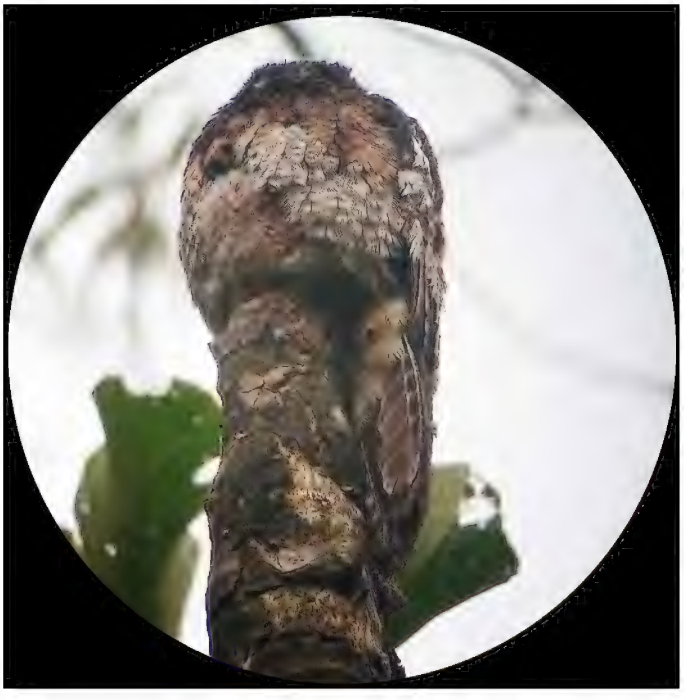
Giant Antpitta, Photo by Julie O'Donnell

Our second highlight was a close view of a soaring Andean Condor. At 20-30 lbs, this is arguably the largest living bird capable of flight. It is the state bird of Ecuador where the remaining population of 150 birds is seriously threatened by widespread poisoning to reduce a population of some 20,000 feral dogs. The bird was one of several seen in the Antisana Ecological Reserve near the 19,000 ft. volcano itself.

Chestnut-breasted Coronet, Photo by Julie O'Donnell

Toucan Barbet, Photo by Julie O'Donnell

These highlights aside, the trip was outstanding in itself, beset with a kaleidoscope of colorful birds: Andean Cock-of-the-rock, Glistening-green Tanager, Golden Tanager, Black-chested Mountain Tanager, Plate-billed Mountain-toucan, and Masked Trogon. And then there were the hummingbird gems such as Great Sapphire-wing, Shining Sunbeam, Velvet-purple Coronet, and Violet-tailed Sylph. As if that were not enough, we were also able to photograph two resting Caprimulgids: Lyre-tailed Nightjar and Andean Potoo, the latter cuddling a chick to its breast.



Andean Potoo with chick, Photo by Wayne Bell

Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, Photo by Wayne Bell

We are hopeful that Ecuador will soon overcome its problems with drug trafficking so that birding tours like ours can resume. Beneficiaries will certainly include the local private entrepreneurs who are trying hard to support their families and local community economies, the country's broader ecotourism industry and, of course, birders like ourselves who are simply dazzled by the avian fauna of this amazing destination. Wayne Bell

TRI-COUNTY

Marcia and Bob Balestri embarked on a relaxed 12-day birding tour in Bulgaria with *Wings Birding Tours*, (www.wingsbirds.com) and then spent 3 extra days in Romania mostly sightseeing. The tour was set in some of Europe's most spectacular scenery with a range of comfortable hotels and excellent food on offer. Located on the Black Sea, Bulgaria sits on one of Europe's key bird migration flyways and its varied habitats offer the expectation of 150 – 200 birds with a chance at seeing the elusive Wallcreeper in the rugged mountain ranges. The tour also showcased Thracian history including visits to multiple UNESCO world heritage sites with ruins, tombs, and reconstructed forts. Marcia tallied 185 species with 35 lifers, and yes, everyone got to see the Wallcreeper! After the official tour, Bob and Marcia wandered around Bucharest, Brasov, and two castles in the Romanian countryside, spotting 41 species for her Romania list, country #90 in her travels.

Marcia Balestri

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Peregrine Falcon photographed at Point of Rocks by Matt Felperin

MOS Calendar

Through 02/28/2025

Field Trips Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.			
11/1	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Adele Clagett, adele@birding.pictures, 410-212-2652
11/2	7 AM – 12 PM	Oxford Conservation Park	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders Susie Pratt (410-924-4925 or prattsuzzie@gmail.com) and Peggy Ford (410-725-1101 or pjford21@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, meadowlarks and sparrows. Breakfast to follow hosted by Janet Mackey and Ron Ketter.
11/2	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader: Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
11/2	8 – 11 AM	Eccleston Wetland Restoration Site	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Tim Carney, timmyc83@gmail.com Description: An experimental stream and wetland restoration / rewilding project.
11/2	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Lynch Preserve, Two Johns	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leader Robin Lahnemann & friends. Description: Meet at the end of Robins Creek Road, Preston.
11/2	8 AM – 4 PM	Chincoteague NWR Trip	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Refuge Exploration - Waterfowl, Wading Birds, Winter Arrivals
11/2	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Russ Ruffing, russruffing@gmail.com Description: Sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies.
11/2	TBD	Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Riley Metcalfe, 347-443-7210 or rileydmetcalfe@gmail.com Description: lingering migrants, sparrows. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
11/2-3	All day	Irish Grove Work Weekend	Host: Sanctuary Committee Contact Jeremy Castle: jeremy.castle@mdbirds.org Description: This year's activities will include trail maintenance, structure maintenance, and house cleaning/upkeep, and, of course, BIRDING.
11/3	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Kinder Farm Park Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
11/3	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Russell Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/3	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to 11/13.
11/4	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys.
11/5	8 AM – 12 PM	Lois Y. Green Conservation Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Mark England at englandmark@comcast.net. Description: We'll be looking for sparrows, waterfowl, and raptors. Limit: 12.
11/5	All day	eBird Monitoring at Pickering	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Susie Pratt (410-924-4925 or prattsuzzie@gmail.com) Description: Resident and late migrant birds.
11/6	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: This is an impromptu leaderless walk for an opportunity to bird with any friends who show up.
11/7	3 – 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Evening Bird Walk. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
11/9	7 AM – 12 PM	Kingston Landing to Turkey Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Cristina Niciporciukas (973-216-5216 or cnicipo71@outlook.com) Description: Waterfowl, Horned Larks and Pipits. Meet at Easton Acme. Breakfast to follow hosted by Cristina Niciporciukas and Lou Crouch.
11/9	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Bombay Hook Bird Trip	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Lynn Feryus for details (443-910-5570 or lfery@verizon.net). Description: Scoping pools and flats for waterfowl, herons, and hawks. Meet at the RT. 155/I95 Havre-de-Grace P&R.
11/9	8 AM – 12 PM	Morgan Run South	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Bill Ellis billellis@ellislist.com or 443-520-8809 Description: We'll look for late migrants and early winter residents. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane.
11/9	All day	Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for meeting time and location.

11/10	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Swan Harbor Farm	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Matt Addicks, matt addicks13@gmail, 443-987-7208
11/10	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/10	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
11/12	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Duck Survey: Perryville Community Park	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. Bring scope if you have one. A mix of driving and some walking.
11/13	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Piney Orchard	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Wendy Crowe, wcrowe437@gmail.com
11/16	7 – 9 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: This third Saturday of each month bird walk meets at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange.
11/16	8 – 11 AM	Loch Raven - Northampton Furnace Trail	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com Description: One-mile level trail through woods to water overlooks. Expect to see waterfowl, woodpeckers, sparrows and perhaps purple finches. Possible muddy spots, boots recommended. RSVP required.
11/16	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon, the Baltimore Bird Club, and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org.
11/16	8 AM – 1 PM	Conowingo Dam	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Guy Di Roma, guydiroma@hotmail.com Description: Bald eagles, great blue herons, cormorants, vultures and ducks. Meet at the Broken Land P&R West at 8:00am. and plan to carpool.
11/16	8:30 – 11 AM	FAMILY FRIENDLY! Mariner Point Park Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Jean Palanuwech for details at mothergoose8257@gmail.com or call/text: 908-507-1875. Description: Beginners welcome! Sparrows, waterfowl, and later migrants.
11/16	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to 11/30.
11/16	All day	Susquehanna River, Conowingo Dam to Havre De Grace	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Scott Hodgdon scotthodgdon@msn.com Description: Hoping to see a variety of birds from warblers to shorebirds. Carpool if you can. We meet and start birding at the dam parking lot at 2542 Shureslanding Rd, Darlington, MD.
11/16	TBD	Hawk Watch	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508 Description: migrating hawk watch. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
11/17	6 AM – 12 PM	Bombay Hook	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl and lingering shorebirds. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at Bombay Hook Visitor's Center at 8 am.
11/17	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz,jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188
11/17	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/21	3 – 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Evening Bird Walk. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
11/23	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Eric Vangrin at 443-417-7219 or evangrin@msn.com. Description: In search of waterfowl, Brown-headed Nuthatches and possibly Red Crossbills. Meet at the RT. 155/I95 Havre-de-Grace P&R.
11/23	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Description: Join Audubon and the Baltimore Bird Club to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org.
11/24	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/26	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Duck Survey: Perryville Community Park	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
11/29	2:30 PM	Owl Prowl	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Susan Henyon (240-682-3882 or suehenyon@rocketmail.com) Description: Afternoon and evening outing in search of owls. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot.
11/29	8 AM – 5 PM	Bird Walk/Drive at Blackwater NWR	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Peter Hanan, peter.hanan@icloud.com, 301-580-2785

11/30	8 – 11 AM	Conowingo Dam Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Dennis Kirkwood for details (443-299-2272or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Watch Bald Eagles, gulls, and waterfowl and walk the trail for Winter Wren and woodpeckers. Meet at the parking lot at Fisherman's Park.
12/1	6 AM – 12 PM	Eastern Neck Island	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Waterfowl and Passerines. Meet at Easton Acme.
12/1	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Kinder Walk	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
12/1	8 – 11 AM	North Point State Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Charisma Burrows, charismaburrows@gmail.com. Description: Expect to see waterfowl, sparrows, and raptors. Entrance fee is $3 unless you have a state park pass. RSVP required.
12/4	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to December 11.
12/5	3 – 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Evening Bird Walk. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
12/6	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at North Point SP	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, 410-967-5896 (text only) or Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300
12/7	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Cemetery Road	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Wintering passerines. Meet at Easton Acme.
12/7	7:30 – 11 AM	Breakfast with the Birds, Masonville Cove Environmental Learning Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Tim Carney, tcarney@menv.com Description: Masonville Cove in Baltimore City welcomes BBC for muffins and coffee and a look at waterfowl in Baltimore Harbor. RSVP to the leader to register; trip limited to 15.
12/7	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader: Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
12/7	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Birding Tour of the Delaware Marshes	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact David Webb (443-417-5385 or porzana@comcast.net) or Mark Johnson (443-528-0045 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com) for questions. Description: Waterfowl search along the Delaware coast starting at Cape Henlopen. Meet at the RT. 155/I95 Havre-de-Grace P&R.
12/7	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Description: From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. For information, contact https://patterson.audubon.org.
12/7	All day	YMOS Photo Big Day	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Students photograph birds to raise money for a cause.
12/8	8 – 11 AM	Quarry Lake	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brian Rollfinke, brollfinke@gmail.com. Description This flooded former marble quarry offers great habitat for a variety of diving ducks and grebes as well as dabblers in shallower water near the outflow. Meet at the overlook on Quarry Lake Dr.
12/8	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
12/10	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Duck Survey: Perryville Community Park	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
12/14	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon and the Baltimore Bird Club to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Register in advance at https://md.audubon.org/events/birdwatching-tour-patterson-park-baltimore
12/14	8 AM – 12 PM	Ponds and waterfowl of northern Carroll County	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Scott Hodgdon scotthodgdon@msn.com Description: Migratory water fowl should be here for the winter and there are ponds that are hotspots for them. Meet at the Westminster Community Pond parking lot.
12/14	8 AM – 12 PM	Lois Y. Green Conservation Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Leo Dilling at LeoDilling@hotmail.com. Description: We'll be looking for sparrows, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at 8711 Snouffer School Road, Gaithersburg, Md. Limit: 12.
12/14	9 AM – 12 PM	Conowingo Park	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: Join the Cecil Bird Club for its Thanksgiving tradition: Spot the eagles from the Cecil County side.
12/15	12 – 2 PM	Family Birding: Eagles of Conowingo	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com Description: Come see one of the largest concentrations of Bald Eagles on the east coast! Look for the table display in Fisherman's Park, or RSVP for more details.
12/15	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188

12/15	8:30 AM – 4 PM	Cambridge Waterfront and Blackwater NWR.	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Peter Lev and Kyle Gardiner, plev@comcast.net, kylegardiner@gmail.com Description: All-day trip with a focus on photography. Meet 8:30 am at Cambridge Visitor's Center or 10:00 am at Blackwater NWR Visitor Center. Limit 12. Reserve with Peter Lev.
12/16	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org.
12/21	7 – 9 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: This third Saturday of each month bird walk meets at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange.
12/19	3 – 5 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Evening Bird Walk. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
12/21	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Ben Poscover, 410-905-896 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to December 28.
12/22	8 – 11 AM	Herring Run Park and Lake Montebello	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Kim Tomko, 443-414-8034 or ktomkat@gmail.com Description: This urban park is an oasis for many migrating and resident bird species. RSVP required.
12/28	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Charisma Burrows, charismaburrows@gmail.com. Description: Look for waterfowl arriving, as well as other winter residents in habitat around the lake. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
1/1	10 – 11:30 AM	First Day Walk	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Questions - email westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com Description: First Day Walk on the C&O Canal Terminus looking for waterfowl, Bald Eagles and overwintering grassland birds. Meet at the Mule Statue at the Western MD Railroad Station.
1/1	8:30 – 11:30 AM	New Year's Day Loch Raven - Old Picnic Area	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com, 667-231-6453 Description:Start off the New Year birding at Old Picnic Area Trail section of Loch Raven Reservoir. RSVP to leader required.
1/4	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Annual Coastal Birding Trip	Host: Tri-County Bird Club Leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Coastal birding trip from Ocean City, MD to Cape Henlopen, DE for winter waterfowl and other winter visitors. Meet at Schumaker Park at 7:30 a.m. or the OC inlet parking lot at 8:15 a.m.
1/4	8 – 11 AM	Hanlon Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com Description:One of the best "semi-secret" spots for winter waterfowl. Meet along Hilton St. side of the lake. RSVP required.
1/5	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Kinder Walk	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
1/7	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Duck Survey: Perryville Community Park	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
1/8	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551 Description:Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to January 15.
1/10	8 – 11 AM	Southwest Area Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Wendy Crow, wcrowe437@gmail.com Description: In this transitional season, expect to see water birds, sparrows, kinglets, and maybe a surprise or two. Meet at the Boat Launch area.
1/11	8 – 11 AM	Habitat Tour: Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Dave Votta, dgvotta85@gmail.com Description: Discussion of current conditions and plans for long-term management, including ongoing research studies and a new forest management plan. Please RSVP.
1/11	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at North Beach	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Lisa Garrett, froglipp@gmail.com, 301-751-4344
1/11	8 AM – 5 PM	Winter Bird Hunt	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Cambridge and South Dorchester Bird Hunt ending with Short-eared Owl Search
1/12	8 – 11:30 AM	Birding by Canoe at Days Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com Description: This trip will focus on winter waterfowl. Canoes and lifejackets will be provided. Participants must be at least 12. Be at the entrance gate between 7:40-8:00am. LIMIT 18. RSVP required.
1/12	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
1/18	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon, the Baltimore Bird Club, and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Register in advance at https://md.audubon.org/events/birdwatching-tour-druid-hill-park-baltimore-0

1/18	8 AM – 5 PM	Shrike Hunt!	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Tim Carney, timcarney83@gmail.com Description: Shrikes are very rare in Baltimore County! We will be hosting the BBC's first-ever Shrike Hunt You can either choose where you'll be shriking or Tim can assign you a territory.
1/18	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Ben Poscover, 410-905-8961 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to January 25.
1/18	9 AM – 5 PM	Ocean City area and beyond	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Sean McCandless (seanmccandless1@gmail.com) Description: A classic trip to the prime Maryland winter birding hotspot. Meet at the Oceanic Motel at the inlet just before the entrance to Ocean City Inlet Parking Lot.
1/18	TBA	C&O Canal Noland's Ferry Landing	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: Wintering Birds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
1/19	10 AM – 12 PM	Family Birding: Winter Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com Description: Meet out feathered friends who stick around or come join us for the winter! Meet at the Nature Education Center.
1/19	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188
1/19	8 – 11 AM	Fort Howard County Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Expect to see herons, waterfowl, and winter residents.
1/21	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Park Ducks	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
1/24	8 AM – 12 PM	Water Fowl Survey	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Fred Shaffer, glaucousgull@verizon.net, 443-926-6457 Description: Sandy Point and Thomas Point
1/25	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon and the Baltimore Bird Club to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Register in advance at https://md.audubon.org/events/birdwatching-tour-patterson-park-baltimore
1/25	9 AM – 12 PM	Chesapeake Environmental Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com or 667-231-6453 Description: We will be looking for ducks, geese, swans, sparrows, Bald Eagles, and Brown-headed Nuthatches.
1/31	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Huntley Meadows	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com, 410-428-7567
2/1	8 – 11 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com Description: Easy walk through the southern half of the park, with an emphasis on waterfowl on the lake. Meet at Swann Dr. entrance. RSVP required.
2/1	TBA	Big Pool/Fort Frederick	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Jeff Smith – 240-291-1892 jefsmith78@gmail.com Description: Wintering birds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
2/2	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Kinder Walk	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
2/2	8 – 11 AM	Irvine Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com Description: A great spot for sparrows, raptors, and other birds of winter. Required fee of $5 per person and RSVP.
2/4	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Park Ducks	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
2/5	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to February 12.
2/8	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Dorchester County Birding Trip	Host: Tri-County Bird Club For more information contact trip leader, Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Looking for waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, other winter residents. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt. 50 west of Salisbury.
2/8	8 – 11 AM	HABITAT TOUR: Eccleston Wetland Restoration site	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Tim Carney, timmyc83@gmail.com Description: The Eccleston Restoration project is an experimental stream and wetland restoration/rewilding project developed to offset environmental impacts from the I95 electronic toll lanes.
2/8	8 AM – 12 PM	Duck Survey	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Linda Vitchock, lindabvit@hotmail.com, 410-901-7555 Description: Fort Smallwood Park and Downs Memorial Park
2/9	4:30 – 6:30 PM	Hopewell Recreation Complex	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Libby Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com Description: Located at the site of the old York County Sanitary Landfill. Managed as a grassland wildlife habitat. Meet in the main parking lot, W side of Althouse School Rd near the ball fields.
2/9	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Serenity Ridge	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Frank Marenghi, frank_marenghi@hotmail.com Description: Habitat hike and birding walk through the trails of Serenity Ridge. Expect a variety of birds, including raptors and sparrows. RSVP required.
2/9	8 AM – 4 PM	Ocean City Area Birding	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Ocean City Area to Assateague Birding

2/9	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294 s Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
2/14-16	All day	President's Day Weekend at Ocean City	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508 Description: Waterfowl / Wintering Seabirds
2/15	8 – 11 AM	Patuxent River Winter Waterfowl	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Alex Pellegrini, agpell.work@gmail.com Description: See migrating waterfowl hotspots on a guided tour on the Park's research boat. Meet at Hallowing Point Boat Ramp Parking Lot, 6904 Hallowing Lane, Prince Frederick. $12 cost for boat usage.
2/15	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon, the Baltimore Bird Club, and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Register in advance at https://md.audubon.org/events/birdwatching-tour-druid-hill-park-baltimore-0
2/15	8 AM – 5:30 PM	Dorchester County Birding	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Cambridge and South Dorchester Bird Hunt ending with Short-eared Owl Search
2/15	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and the walk will be rescheduled to February 22.
2/16	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188
2/16	9 – 11 AM	Family Birding: Owls at Marshy Point	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com Description: Look for the BBC table near the parking lot for a chance to see some of these reclusive feathered friends up close!
2/18	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Park Ducks	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Maryanne Dolan (MARYANNE.DOLAN@GMAIL.COM) Description: Seeking out migrants and early waterfowl. A mix of driving and some walking.
2/22	6 – 7 PM	Bauers Farm Road	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Tim Carney, timmyc83@gmail.com Description: Join us for a chance to see woodcocks performing their flight displays as they enter breeding season. Displays usually begin ~30 minutes after sunset (5:52 PM on 2/22).
2/22	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Smithsonian Env. Research Center	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jonas Lai, jonaselai@gmail.com, 203-915-6829
2/22	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon and the Baltimore Bird Club to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Register in advance at https://md.audubon.org/events/birdwatching-tour-patterson-park-baltimore
2/22	9 – 11:30 AM	Bird Walk	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Questions - email westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com Description: Bird walk on the C&O Canal from Oldtown west approximately 2 miles then return to look for the active Bald Eagle nest and other overwintering birds.
2/22 - 23	All day	Ocean City Weekend	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: John Landers, 410-292-9549 Description: Meet at Ocean City inlet 8:00 Saturday 2/22. Make other stops on way to Assateague Island National Seashore. Will go to Inlet Sunday morning 2/23 but no plans after that.
2/23	8 – 11 AM	Southwest Area Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Tom Crusse and Laura Lechtzin, tcrusse@gmail.com Description: In this transitional season, expect to see water birds, sparrows, kinglets, and maybe a surprise or two. Meet at the Boat Launch area.
2/28	All day	Snow Goose Survey	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, 410-967-5896 (text only) or Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300
2/28	TBA	Woodcock at Audrey Carroll	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Riley Metcalfe, 347-443-7210 or rileydmetcalfe@gmail.com Description: Looking for American Woodcock. Contact leader for meeting time and location.

Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

11/6	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker: Gerald Winegrad, his African Safari Trip.	Carroll Nonprofit Center
11/7	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Tim Carney and Kristina Motley will speak on "Poplar Island"	Hood College
11/12	7 – 9 pm	Meeting: Baltimore Bird Club	Dr. Campbell Plowden will present the work of Amazon Ecology, followed by a sale of crafts made by artisan partners from Peru.	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
11/12	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Winter Waterfowl of the Chesapeake Bay presented by Lisa Bierer-Garrett.	Virtual

11/12	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Talbot Bird Club	Speaker will be Scott Harris on “Raptor Quest: A Year-long Adventure Chasing America’s Raptors.”	Easton YMCA
11/14	7 – 9 PM	Meeting Howard County Bird Club	Scott Harris will speak on RaptorQuest: Chasing America's Raptors	Robinson Nature Center
11/16	9 AM – 12 PM	Meeting: Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA	Waves of Choptank Visitor Center
11/20	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Speaker: Jo Cox on "The C and O Canal Count"	Potomac Presbyterian Church and virtual
11/22 – 24	All day	MOS Convention	Host: MOS. Check www.mosconvention.org for details.	Ocean City
11/25	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Tri-County Bird Club	"They Call Me Frau Puffin” presented by Mary Gunther, Salisbury University Biology faculty member.	Junior Achievement
11/26	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Washington County Club	Movie; "Earth Flight"	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
12/3	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
12/4	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker: George Jett and Gwen Brewer will be doing a remote presentation on birding in Gambia and Senegal.	Carroll Nonprofit Center
12/5	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Trivia Night featuring Denny Grizzle, Trivia Master, a Potluck and Silent Auction!	Hood College
12/7	10 AM – 12 PM	MOS Board Meeting	Host: MOS and Frederick Bird Club	Hood College
12/10	7 – 8:30 PM	Board Meeting: Baltimore Bird Club	While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Contact any club officer or board member for details.	Virtual
12/11	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	MBC Annual Holiday Party, featuring member photos and a bird quiz	Potomac Presbyterian Church
1/2	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Evan Hull, Science Teacher at Windsor Knolls Middle School will tell us about the Hog Island Audubon Camp.	Hood College
1/7	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
1/15	7 – 9 pm	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Suzanne Shoemaker, on "Bird Rehabilitation at the Owl Moon Raptor Center"	Potomac Presbyterian Church and virtual
1/18	9 AM – 12 PM	Meeting: Caroline Bird Club	Samantha Pitts will provide an update on Audubon’s Climate Watch program and on Pickering Creek Audubon Center.	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
1/19	4 – 7 pm	Baltimore Bird Club Annual Covered Dish Dinner and Lecture	Scott Weidensaul will speak on his new book “A World on the Wing.” Please sign up for your contribution to the supper on PerfectPotluck.com.	Vollmer Center, Cylburn Arboretum
1/27	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Tri-County Bird Club	“Tri-County Reptiles and Amphibians” presented by Dave Wilson, co-owner of Delmarva Birding Weekends.	Junior Achievement
2/4	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
2/5	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker TBA	Carroll Nonprofit Center
2/6	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Emily Williams will speak on Not Just a Backyard Bird: Insights into the Annual Movements of American Robins	Hood College
2/15	9 AM – 12 PM	Meeting: Caroline Bird Club	Debby Bennett and Danny Poet will present some of the “Best of L.T. Short” photo collection.	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
2/19	7 – 9 pm	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	David Kidwell on "Marine Toxic Algae and its Effects on Pelagic Species"	Potomac Presbyterian Church and virtual
2/24	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Tri-County Bird Club	“The Birds and the Bees: stories your parents never told you!” presented by Dr. Jeff Pettis.	Junior Achievement

Christmas and Winter Counts

Information is current as of publication date

CBC: Allegany	Contact Mark Eanes, mdeanes@atlanticbb.net	12/14
CBC: Catoctin Mountain	Contact Kathy Brown (301-865-1369 or kathybrown07@verizon.net) Backup date 12/15	12/14
CBC: Denton	Contact Debbie Bennett, 410-829-4952 or dabennett1996@gmail.com	12/14
CBC: Garrett County/Oakland	Compiler: Connie Skipper, connieskipper@hohnet.com	12/14
CBC: Middle River	Compiler: Elizabeth Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@googlemail.com	12/14
CBC: Point Lookout	Compiler: Bob Boxwell, 410-610-5124 or robertboxwell1@outlook.com	12/14
CBC: Triadelphia Reservoir	Compiler: David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com	12/14
CBC: Wachapreague, VA	Coordinator: Victor Klein, vklein3254@aol.com	12/14
CBC: Washington County	Compiler: Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com	12/14
CBC: Bombay Hook, DE	Compiler: Andrew Ednie, ednieap@verizon.net or 302-463-0113	12/15
CBC: Charles Town, WV	Compiler: Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com	12/15
CBC: Elkton	Contact Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) to participate	12/15
CBC: Jug Bay	Compiler: Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net	12/15
CBC: Lower Kent	Compiler: Nancy Martin, borealdee@gmail.com	12/15
CBC: Port Tobacco	Compiler: Gwen Brewer Volunteer Coordinator Mike Callahan, 240-765-5912 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com	12/15
CBC: Salisbury	Compiler Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net .	12/15
CBC: Seneca	Compiler: Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net	12/15
CBC: Southern Lancaster Co, PA	Coordinator: Derek Stoner, 484-723-3348 or derekstoner@hotmail.com	12/15
CBC: The Plains/Airlie, VA	Register at https://cliftoninstitute.org/event/25th-the-plains-airlie-christmas-bird-count/. Coordinator Bridget Bradshaw, bbradshaw@cliftoninstitute.org or 540-341-3651.	12/15
CBC: St. Michaels	Contact Wayne Bell (410-253-1663 or wbell2@washcoll.edu) or George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com or 410-463-1669)	12/15
CBC: Patuxent River	Compiler: Ben Springer, 443-771-6636 (text preferred) or ben.springer@comcast.net	12/21
CBC: York, PA	Compiler: Bernie Frick, bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu; alternate date 12/28	12/21
CBC: Baltimore (trial run)	Compiler: Elizabeth Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@googlemail.com	12/21
CBC: Chesterville	Compiler: Maren Gimpel, maren.gimpel@gmail.com	12/22
CBC: Lancaster, PA	Coordinator: Barbara Hunsberger, phunsberger@comcast.net	12/22
CBC: Middletown, DE	Contact Anthony Gonzon, atgonzon@verizon.net	12/22
CBC: Crisfield	Compiler: Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net	12/27
CBC: Nokesville, VA	Contact alliance@pwconserve.org	12/27
CBC: York CBC4Kids, PA	Compiler: Bernie Frick, bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu	12/27
CBC: Central Loudoun, VA & MD	Sign up at www.loudounwildlife.org or contact compilers, Joe Coleman: jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or Bryan Henson at bhenson@loudounwildlife.org.	12/28
CBC: Ocean City	Compiler: Mark Hoffman, wcbirding@gmail.com	12/28
CBC: Rock Run	Contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com.	12/28
CBC: Lititz, PA	Coodinator: Ted Nichols II, tanicholsii@gmail.com	12/29
CBC: Southern Dorchester	Contact Bruce Peterjohn, bpeterjohn@verizon.net.	12/29
CBC: Sugarloaf	Contact Jo Cox, jobird11@gmail.com	12/29
CBC: Chincoteague, VA	Contact: Kevin Holcomb, kevin_holcomb@fws.gov	12/29
CBC: Bowie	Compiler: David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net or 301-509-2212	1/1
CBC: Milford, DE	Compiler Chris Bennett, cpb2564@gmail.com	1/2
CBC: Ft Belvoir	Compiler/VA volunteers contact Kurt Gaskill (kurtcap87@verizon.net) MD Sector Coordinators: Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com and/or Bob Lukinic, 301-283-6317 or rdlukinic@gmail.com	1/4
CBC: Rehoboth	Contact Russell Kovach, 443-386-4787 or russell.kovach@gmail.com	1/4
Audrey Carroll Count	Contact David Smith – 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net	1/4
CBC: Annapolis and Gibson Island	Compilers: Hal Wierenga, Lynn Davidson & Sue Ricciardi, hal.lynn@comcast.net	1/5
CBC: Inwood, WV	Compiler: Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com	1/5
CBC: Loch Raven	Compiler: Elizabeth Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@googlemail.com	1/5
Fred Archibald Count	Contact David Smith – 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net	1/11
Frederick County Mid-winter Count	Contact David Smith – 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net	1/25
C&O Count	Contact Melissa Hensel at westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com	1/25 – 2/2/25